'*Unai Bapot* shows settlement before 1500 BC' PAGE 2
SYP to lead Toys for Tots drive in the CNMI. PAGE 7

Hafa Adai!

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Torres upbeat on budget

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Torres

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is confident that a budget would be enacted on time and avert a government shutdown.

In a statement by press secretary Kevin Bautista, he quoted Torres as saying he is optimistic that the budget

See TORRES on Page 4

Justice: Evolving security challenge is paramount in Marines relocation plan

» Groups say they are not seeking to invalidate deals between US, Japan for Guam relocation

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With rapidly evolving security challenges in the Asia-Pacific region, "there is an unusual need for unquestioning adherence to the political decision already made" to relocate Okinawa-based Marines to Guam, and to maintain the United States' commitment to Japan, according to the U.S. Department of Justice.

But four environmental and cul-

See JUSTICE on Page 4

CNMI Drug Court reaches capacity

By KIMBRLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Drug Court has reached its maximum capacity and has 12 individuals on its wait list, according to Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Speaking at the Rotary Club of Saipan's weekly meeting last Tuesday, Kim-Tenorio said the drug court has offered its recovery services to

See CNMI on Page 4

'OAG has not prosecuted 'ice' trafficking in past three years'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A judge who sentenced a habitual offender yesterday to the maximum of five years in prison for illegal possession of methamphetamine or "ice" had some choice words, not for the defendant but for the Office of the Attorney General.

See OAG on Page 4

FREE LECHON MVA
Imperial Pacific International Ltd. demonstrates pig roasting and serves free samples at the Marianas Visitors Authority's 3rd Annual International Festival of Cultures on Sept. 9, 2017, at the Garapan Fishing Base. The festival will return this Saturday, Sept. 16.

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16 DAYS BEFORE THE END OF FISCAL YEAR 2017

INSIDE

LOCAL
The TSL Foundation leads a community effort to mark the 16th anniversary of 9/11.

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BUSINESS
Apple has broken the $1,000 barrier with its latest phone, the iPhone X.

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LIFE & STYLE
TV's Asian-American characters are frequently slighted.

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IT&E

Local

'Unai Bapot shows settlement before 1500 BC'

Through the CNMI Historic Preservation Office, Dr. Mike Carson's archaeological research of the Unai Bapot area on Saipan is available online for the community to learn about the site's initial habitation.

According to HPO officer Mertie Kani, during the training of historical review and preservation staff, Carson's research of the site revealed substantive evidence of remote Pacific habitation.

She shares that the 3,500 year-old latte site located in Lau Lau gave insight to the lives of the ancient Chamorros of the area.

Kani adds that Carson's research, which began in 2005, found that artifacts and sediment layers at the Unai Bapot were much older than those of the House of Taga on Tinian, suggesting that ancient Chamorros inhabited the islands for much longer than previously documented.

She says that Carson, who presented his research in early December 2016, has clarified the oldest known presence of a residential habitation before 1500 B.C.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said these new findings encourage continued research of the Marianas and its history.

"We've seen how powerful scientific findings are in understanding our history and our culture. From identifying sites of our ancestors to other research focused on marine biodiversity, we can see how significant these are to our islands' story. I encourage more in the community to learn more about our sites and to preserve and pass down this knowledge," Torres said.

ON THE NET

http://www.archaeopress.com/ArchaeopressShop/Public/displayProductDetail.asp?id=%7b6ED84499-1DC4-4F16-B2F2-C1A0A0EE0E71%7d

Resident executive for Indigenous Affairs Roman Tudela expressed interest in further preserving and promoting the latte site.

"We have three indigenous latte sites on the island of Saipan, of which Unai Bapot reveals strong evidence of early settlement, which we hope to soon promote as part of our indigenous culture and heritage," Tudela said.

Additionally, the latte site's findings have created opportunities for the staff of CNMI HPO to gain and improve technical skills firsthand in terms of excavation, managing materials, and processing the findings for analysis.

Members of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service participated in a portion of the excavation with a goal of building future partnerships between USFWS and CNMI HPO.

The CNMI HPO staff included Mertie Kani, Lufo Babauta, Jose Jesus Fitial, John Diego Palacios, James Pruitt, Jennifer Sablan, Juan Salas, and Abraham Tenorio. The USFWS staff included Jeried Calaor, Brian Leon Guerrero, Kyle Ngiriatregd, and Emily Sablan, with authorized travel from their regular assignments at the Ritidian Unit of Guam National Wildlife Refug. Further opportunities were provided for Saipan residents Lufo Babauta Jr., John Castro, Angel Palacios, Cassius Fitial, and Erik Kani to gain certified working experience.

For more information on Unai Bapot, log on to http://www.archaeopress.com/ArchaeopressShop/Public/displayProductDetail.asp?id=%7b6ED84499-1DC4-4F16-B2F2-C1A0A0EE0E71%7d. ***(PR)***

7 sites on Saipan red-flagged

The Bureau Environmental and Coastal Quality has given seven sites on Saipan red flags and advised the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until notified.

Samples taken from Tanapag Meeting Hall, Central Repair Shop, DPW Channel Bridge, American Memorial Park, Grandvrio Resort Saipan, Garapan Fishing Dock, and Garapan Beach were found to contain excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (entrococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

BECQ analyzes water samples collected from Saipan's 38 recreational beaches and storm drainages every Tuesday.

BECQ welcomes all inquiries as to the quality of the beach water. Contact DEQ at 664-8500 for more information. ***(PR)***

INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF CULTURES

Marianas-*chan* and more

The Chamorro community performs at the Marianas Visitors Authority's 3rd Annual International Festival of Cultures on Sept. 9, 2017, at Garapan Fishing Base. MVA

The 3rd Annual International Festival of Cultures returns on Saturday, Sept. 16, at Garapan Fishing Base for another full night of festivities.

Inclement weather last Sept. 9 forced the postponement of the Parade of Cultures and ethnic costume fashion show until the final festival night on Sept. 30. However, entertainment and other festivities pushed through, including a special performance by Marianas-*chan* Jebro Leon and his dance partner Aliyah Pua, who will help promote the Marianas later this month at the JATA Tourism Expo in Tokyo.

Leon and Pua return to the stage this Saturday, along with another line-up of entertainers: Japanese community at 6pm, Chuukese and Pohnpeian community at 6:30pm, Palauan community at 7pm, Korean community at 7:45pm, Bangladeshi community at 8:15pm, Filipino community at 8:30pm, and Refaluwasch community at 8:45pm

Food sales, arts and crafts sales, photo booth, free roast pig, and hands-on cultural demonstrations at the various ethnic booths will be held from 5pm to 9pm.

"Rain is considered a blessing in many of our island cultures, but we are all looking forward to better weather this weekend and a strong turnout for the International Festival of Cultures," said MVA Community Projects manager Martin Duenas. "Whether you sit and enjoy the entertainment, want to ask questions and learn about different cultures, or just want to pick up a quick dinner, we invite everyone to stop by."

Slated to participate in the festival are the communities of Korea, China, Japan, Chamorro, Carolinian, Samoa, Fiji, Tonga, Hawaii, Marshall Islands, Palau, Bangladesh, Chuuk, Pohnpei, and the Philippines.

Additional supporters are IT&E, Imperial Pacific International CNMI LLC, Skywalker, and PDM Promoters.

Representatives of various ethnic communities in the Marianas display their traditional attire during the opening of the Marianas Visitors Authority's 3rd Annual International Festival of Cultures on Sept. 9, 2017, at the Garapan Fishing Base. The festival will be held every Saturday evening throughout September. MVA

Marians-chan Jebro Leon and Aliyah Pua dance to the Marianas classic *Jet Plane* at the Marianas Visitors Authority's 3rd Annual International Festival of Cultures on Sept. 9, 2017, at Garapan Fishing Base. Leon and Pua will be part of the Marianas delegation to the JATA Tourism Expo in Tokyo later this month. MVA

For more information, contact MVA Community Projects coordinator Janerlinse Seman Sablan at jsablan@mymarianas.com or 664-3210. ***(PR)***

The Chinese community performs chi gong at the Marianas Visitors Authority's 3rd Annual International Festival of Cultures on Sept. 9, 2017, at Garapan Fishing Base. MVA

The Federated States of Micronesia community serves up Micronesian favorites at the Marianas Visitors Authority's 3rd Annual International Festival of Cultures on Sept. 9, 2017, at Garapan Fishing Base. MVA

SNILD approves 3 rezoning bills

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation last Friday passed three rezoning bills in separate locations.

House Local Bill 20-18, authored by Rep. Alice Igitol (R-Saipan), seeks to transform two lots in Tanapag from village residential to a tourist resort district. The bill passed the delegation with a 13-5 vote.

Sen. Sixto Igisomar (R-Saipan), Reps. Ed Propst (Ind-Saipan), Vinson Sablan (Ind-Saipan), Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), and Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) all voted against its passage.

According to discussions on the HLB 20-18, the Commonwealth Zoning Board earlier declined a business proposal to build a resort hotel in the area. Sablan noted that Zoning deemed the proposal "incompatible to its surrounding areas," which is mostly industrial.

Sablan described the bill as "detrimental to the village," saying the beach area is riddled with red flags. According to Sablan, that area is the endpoint of a storm water drainage.

Propst pointed out that the area is "not a tourist area" and a hotel would be "out of place."

"We are representatives not of tourists, but of our constituents," said Propst.

Delegation members that supported the bill argued that the CNMI needs more hotel rooms.

Rep. Joseph "Lee Pan" Guerrero (R-Saipan), who referred to the area as "contaminated," said that developers "might mitigate the issue."

Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan) added that the legislation is a mere "rezoning process" and that regulatory agencies would step in to address future concerns.

Reps. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan), Ivan Blanco (R-Saipan), and House Speaker Rafael Demapan (R-Saipan) were absent from the meeting.

House Local Bill 20-31 also passed the delegation. The bill rezones all lots adjacent to Beach Road from the lot located on the northeast quadrant of the intersection of Beach Road and As Perdido Road to the final lot on the southeast quadrant of the intersection of Beach Road and Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Road from village commercial to mixed commercial.

This rezoning includes Martha Store's poker parlor, through an amendment to Saipan Local Law 18-04, which restricts the number of poker parlors by only allowing them in certain areas. The amendment states that all poker parlors in rezoned areas would be considered conforming.

"These are all areas abutting Beach Road," said delegation chair Rep. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan). "This [bill] was recommended by the Zoning Office," he said, referring to an Aug. 23, 2017, letter from Zoning administrator Therese Ogumoro urging the delegation to make the changes.

HLB 20-31 passed the delegation on a 13-5 vote, with all members of the minority bloc opposing its passage. The House minority bloc consists of minority leader Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), Reps. Ed Propst (Ind-Saipan), Vinson Sablan (Ind-Saipan), Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), and Blas Jonathan "B.J." Attao (Ind-Saipan).

The delegation also passed HLB 20-29, which rezones lots beyond the now abandoned La Fiesta Mall northward to As Matuis from a rural to tourist resort.

Sablan also authored HLB 20-29.

"I am just trying to make things consistent," said Sablan, adding that HLB 20-05, which rezoned two sites to a similar zoning district, allows for more economic activity on the lots.

All three local bills now head to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres for signing.

StarKist to pay $6.3M in wastewater case

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa (AP)—The world's largest supplier of canned tuna has agreed to pay a $6.3 million penalty for wastewater violations in American Samoa, the U.S. Department of Justice announced Tuesday.

StarKist Co., based in Pittsburgh and owned by South Korea's Dongwon Industries, will also take steps to reduce environmental harm to the U.S. territory, where it is the largest private employer.

"StarKist is committed to American Samoa and its people by being a socially responsible company and doing the right thing," Andrew Choe, company president and CEO, said in a statement.

StarKist and subsidiary StarKist Samoa Co. are required to make various upgrades to reduce pollution, improve safety measures and comply with federal environmental laws at the their American Samoa tuna processing plant, the Justice Department said.

In 2014, a discharge pipeline break at the facility spilled unpermitted wastewater into the inner Pago Pago Harbor. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency began investigating.

In addition to the wastewater violations, the EPA found StarKist was improperly storing ammonia, butane and chlorine gas.

The agreement requires StarKist to improve the facility's ammonia refrigeration system and stop using chlorine gas and butane, the Justice Department said.

As part of the agreement, StarKist said it will also purchase protective suits and scuba units to help American Samoa first responders cope with emergencies.

"Today's agreement will help prevent hazardous releases at the StarKist facility, protect workers and the local community, and reduce pollution discharged into Pago Pago Harbor by more than 13 million pounds each year," Acting Regional Administrator Alexis Strauss with the EPA's Pacific Southwest Region said in a statement.

Rota marks Aluf Luta Week

Rota's trademark friendliness was celebrated in the last two weeks of August when the island, led by Mayor Efraim Atalig, commemorated Aluf Luta Week or Rota Wave Week.

It marks the third year that the CNMI's southernmost island celebrated the event to recognize hand waving and its role in Rota's culture as a tradition that signifies peace, friendliness, and respect.

Aluf Luta Week was held from Aug. 21 to Aug. 31.

"The reason why we started Aluf Luta is to make sure that this unique way of greeting people, or welcoming visitors to our island doesn't [end]. It is a special tradition for the island, which is one of the reasons Rota is known as 'The Friendly Island,'" said Atalig.

Under his leadership, Atalig's staff and other government agencies coordinated 10 days of competitions, including a signboard and songwriting competitions with the theme "Aluf Luta" or the "Rota Wave." The celebration ended with a roadside waving at Teteto Beach last Aug. 31, where Atalig and his staff, government agencies, and students gathered to share the island's welcoming spirit.

The signboard competition saw Rota's National Honor Society/Division of Youth Services win first place. The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs and Department of Lands and Natural Resources came in second and third, respectively. In the songwriting competition Abriette Manglona took first place. ***(Va'ina Lizama)***

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New judge Bogdan holds first hearing today

New Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan will conduct his first hearing today, Thursday.

Saipan Tribune learned that Bogdan will preside over several change of plea hearings in traffic cases at 1:30pm.

Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja was the original judge assigned to handle those traffic cases.

Bogdan came to work for the first time last Sept. 1, in which he sat next to Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho during hearing.

The Senate approved Bogdan's appointment as associate judge last Aug. 10.

Bogdan takes over the position of David A. Wiseman, who retired as an associate judge in May 2016. Gov. Ralph DLG Torres appointed Bogdan a year later.

Bogdan's investiture at the CNMI Supreme Court will be in November 2017. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

JUSTICE

From Page 1

tural preservation groups led by the Tinian Women Association, through counsel David L. Henkin and Kimberlyn K. King-Hinds, maintained that they do not seek to invalidate the agreement between the U.S. and Japan that calls for Marines to leave Okinawa.

Rather, the groups said, they seek merely to ensure that the U.S. Department of the Navy will follow procedures such as comply with the National Environmental Policy Act to evaluate in a single Environmental Impact Statement all impacts associated with stationing Marines in the Marianas and to consider other locations that would accomplish the mission with fever environmental impacts.

The groups—Tinian Women Association, Guardians of Gani, Pagan Watch, and the Center for Biological Diversity—are suing the U.S. Department of Navy, U.S. Department of Defense, Navy Secretary Richard V. Spencer and Defense Secretary James Mattis for alleged violation of NEPA, and Administrative Act over the Navy's decision to relocate 5,000 U.S. Marines from Okinawa to Guam and to conduct live-fire training on Tinian and Pagan.

In a prior briefing, the DOJ, counsel for the U.S. Navy, and co-defendants cited a district court's decision in a lawsuit filed by the Biological Diversity against Hagel ("Okinawa Dugong") in support of its motion to dismiss the four groups' NEPA alternatives claim.

On Aug. 21, 2017, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit reversed the district court, finding that the plaintiffs in the Okinawa Dugong case had standing to seek declaratory and injunctive relief and that the plaintiffs' claims did not present a political question.

With that Ninth Circuit ruling, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona recently ordered the parties in the groups' lawsuit to submit supplemental briefs to address whether and to what extent such ruling affects the U.S. pending motion to dismiss the case.

In the supplemental memorandum filed last week, DOJ Environmental & Natural Resources Division trial attorneys Taylor N. Ferrell and Joshua P. Wilson asserted that the Ninth Circuit ruling does not change the controlling analysis applicable to the plaintiffs' NEPA alternative claim, and does not affect the U.S.'s motion to dismiss the case.

Wilson said in reversing the district court's ruling, the Ninth Circuit did not overturn its own prior decision in a separate Salmon Spawning case, nor did it disturb the decades of rulings by the U.S. Supreme Court and Courts of Appeals that the U.S. has argued are dispositive of plaintiffs' NEPA alternative claim.

Rather, Wilson said, the Ninth Circuit held only that the particular procedural claims the Okinawa Dugong plaintiffs made—claims challenging the implementing details but not the fundamental basis of an international agreement—are justiciable claims; redressable under the Administrative Procedure Act and National Historic Preservation Act.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

OAG

From Page 1

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho pointed out that the OAG appears to have a "conflicting message" about "ice."

In the case of John Richard Palacios Deleon Guerrero, Camacho said the defendant was originally charged with eight counts, for a possible consecutive sentence of 100 years. Yet the OAG later amended that to only one count as part of a plea deal with Deleon Guerrero.

That basically removed 95 years of a possible consecutive sentence, he said.

To put it another way, Camacho said, the deal is a 95-percent "discount" of the possible maximum consecutive sentence.

Camacho said it is absolutely clear that Deleon Guerrero is being punished not because he is a drug addict, but due to his conviction for possession of "ice."

Deleon Guerrero admits that he uses "ice" every waking moment, and that the only time he does not use the drug is when he is asleep.

Deleon Guerrero, 41, also known as Massi and or Penny, will serve his five-year sentence without the possibility of parole. He was given credit for time served and was ordered to pay the mandatory $2,000 fine.

The judge said a sentence of five years in prison is appropriate as Deleon Guerrero has prior convictions, including violent crimes, drug crimes and property crimes.

Camacho noted that Deleon Guerrero has one federal conviction and four CNMI prior criminal convictions.

In addition to this case, the defendant is awaiting sentencing in a separate criminal case for illegal possession of a controlled substance.

Assistant attorney general Chester Hinds, counsel for the government, had recommended a prison sentence of five years. Defense lawyer Steven Pixley recommended two years, submitting in court four letters from Deleon Guerrero's mother, sisters and brother-in-law, asking for a lenient sentence.

Camacho said OAG asked the court to take a hard stance against crimes involving "ice," stating in writing that "meth addiction is a plague in this community affecting everyone."

Yet in Deleon Guerrero's case, Camacho said, the OAG amended the eight charges last Dec. 28 to only one count of possession of a controlled substance, which carries a possible sentence of five years imprisonment, and removing the "ice" trafficking and illegal firearms charges.

Camacho said there is nothing on record that Deleon Guerrero cooperated to get other drug dealers, or that he has a mental illness or other mitigating factors.

The plea agreement in this case, Camacho said, is particularly concerning as it involves both illegal drugs and illegal firearms, and that Deleon Guerrero is a repeat offender with prior convictions in federal and CNMI courts.

The judge added that in the past three years, the OAG has not prosecuted any drug dealers with "ice" trafficking. Instead, all drug trafficking arrests have resulted in plea bargains for the much lesser offense of possession.

In this case, according to court records, during a buy-operation, the CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force's "confidential source" managed to buy .70 gross grams of "ice" worth $120 from Deleon Guerrero outside his home in Lower Miha in Garapan on Aug. 18, 2016. It was Deleon Guerrero's alleged drug associate who handed the "ice" to the "confidential source."

In May 2015, Deleon Guerrero pleaded guilty to illegal possession of a controlled substance and was slapped with a one-year prison sentence. In that case, he reportedly engaged police officers in a car chase and threw away a small bag of "ice."

In February 2006, federal agents arrested Deleon Guerrero for conspiracy to receive and possess stolen mail; and for possession of stolen mail. He served seven months in prison in that case.

In two cases in 2002 for assault and battery and theft, he served a suspended sentence, meaning no prison term.

In consolidated two cases in 2005 and 2006 for burglary and theft, he served 10 months in prison.

Deleon Guerrero is awaiting sentencing in a 2016 case for illegal possession of a controlled substance.

CNMI

From Page 1

over 20 individuals since starting in December 2016.

Since then, they have terminated two individuals and are currently treating 24, according to Kim-Tenorio.

As the judge for the drug court, Kim-Tenorio never imagined that this was something that she would be handling, adding that the role was dropped on her lap. Yet she now feels that she has found her "calling."

Kim-Tenorio clarified that the program is not an alternative route out of prison, or a punishment for convicted drug users or drug traffickers. Rather, the program consists of intensive phases that lead individuals down a "sure path to recovery."

Kim-Tenorio said the individuals involved with the program have a whole calendar filled with different activities that, step by step, lead them to long-term recovery and with a higher chance of starting a new life without turning back to drugs.

Kim-Tenorio knows that rehabilitation will not completely guarantee that an individual will not relapse, but the program does equip them with a fighting chance.

The goal of the Commonwealth drug court is not just to treat individuals until they are sober and then let them free, but also to heal the whole person, she said.

After spending some time with those in the program, she came to realize that they were not bad people. "They are good people, they just made a bad choice…everyone has a story," said Kim-Tenorio.

She said that, after witnessing the progress that the drug court participants have been making, she has come to realize the enormity of the role she would play.

Kim-Tenorio said that one of her most rewarding moments as a drug court judge was hearing the testimonies given by family members of the drug court participants. One of the testimonies that stood out for her was when a young child thanked her for helping her mother. Through the drug court, the child was able to see more of her mother and for Kim-Tenorio, playing a part in that success is what inspires her to continue with the drug court.

According to Kim-Tenorio, it takes roughly $7,000 to fully treat each participant. Aside from the funding granted to the drug court by the Legislature, participants of the program are also required to pay a total of $540 once they are employed (the program helps them find a job). This helps alleviate the cost of treatment and it also teaches the individual about responsibility.

TORRES

From Page 1

bill would be enacted before the start of fiscal year 2018 exactly 16 days from today.

"We trust the legislative process and the members of the conference committee to mitigate the concerns and issues surrounding the budget bill," said Bautista in an email to *Saipan Tribune*, adding that both the Torres administration and the Legislature "will not allow" a government shutdown.

Fiscal year 2018 starts on Oct. 1, 2017. Without a budget, the CNMI government will be forced to shut down, with the exception of "essential" personnel.

"As a government, we are committed to ensuring that we do not adversely affect the lives of our civil service employees who work day in and day out for our community," reads part of the email.

According to Bautista, Torres is in constant touch with the Legislature with regards to the budget process.

"We look forward to a budget that supports the needs of our community and provides more opportunities for the people who call these islands home," Bautista added.

On Monday, the House of Representatives rejected the amendments the Senate inserted in the budget bill, forcing the Legislature to create a conference committee, a formal meeting between selected conferees from both House and Senate to negotiate on key provisions of the budget.

One of two House members who voted to accept the Senate amendments, Rep. Glenn Maratita (R-Rota), said the 16 days left before the fiscal year ends is never too late "if the conferees act swiftly."

"My concern is we need to allow the governor at least 10 days to review [the budget]," he said, adding that although the CNMI Constitution mandates a 20-day period for the governor's review, it is possible for Torres to do that in less than 20 days.

"The primary issue here is…to avoid a shutdown. It is now between the conferees to work on a product to be presented to the governor," Maratita said.

Rep. Edwin Aldan (R-Tinian) also backed the Senate amendments, which included a $793,534 increase in appropriations for Tinian and $452,962 increase for Rota.

The Senate reshuffled a total of $2.5 million among various government agencies and preallocated $1.5 million in the Marianas Visitors Authority's budget, resulting in an indirect cut for the marketing agency.

Rep. Angel A. Aldan (R-Saipan) said in an earlier interview that he wishes to "push out" a final version of the budget by the end of the week.

"It is my intention to work closely with the Senate conferees and the Senate chairman of the conferees to ensure that we pass a budget on time that gives the governor ample time to review it and to ensure that we avert a government shutdown in services," he said earlier.

Aldan chairs the House panel of conferees while vice speaker Janet Maratita (R-Saipan) acts as vice chair. Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) acts as the third member of the conferees while Rep. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan) acts as an alternate.

Sen. Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) chairs the Senate panel for the conference committee while Sen. Sixto Igisomar (R-Saipan) acts as vice chair and Sen. Steve K. Mesngon (R-Rota) is a third member. Sen. Justo S. Quitugua (Ind-Saipan) was appointed as an alternate for the Senate panel.

Guam govt seeks apartment bids for homeless shelter

HAGNATA, Guam (AP)—The government of Guam is asking owners of apartment buildings to submit bids to provide a temporary shelter to the island's homeless people.

The government is hoping to find out how many private businesses would lease an apartment complex with a minimum of 15 units to serve as a temporary shelter at night, *The Pacific Daily News* reported Monday.

The project is estimated to cost between $250,000 and $300,000, Guam Housing Corporation President Christopher Duenas said.

"This overnight shelter is the first of its kind for the homeless people on the island," Duenas said. He added that the facility is not meant to serve as a long-term housing solution, but to provide a place where the homeless could take a shower and sleep at night.

"The scope of services will be developed once we ascertain the availability of private partners," Duenas said.

Gov. Eddie Calvo instructed the Guam Housing Corporation to find an apartment complex for the project. "We want to help our people and families who are in need and provide them safe shelter in the evenings," Calvo wrote in a statement.

Guam has about 1,085 homeless people, based on the last count in January 2016, according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. That's down from the 1,280 homeless people counted in 2015.

Guam created emergency shelters for people and families a few years ago. Although the shelters have been successful, officials said they fill up quickly.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Survivors & caregivers support meeting on Sept. 14

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the monthly support meeting on Thursday, Sept. 14, 2017, starting at 5:30pm, at Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room. To RSVP or for more information, call the Commonwealth Cancer Association at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Class of 1987 gears up for reunion

The Class of 1987 will be having its 30th-year class reunion on Sept. 23. The reunion is open to any CNMI Class of 1987 graduate, regardless of which high school they graduated from. A Mass in honor of departed classmates will be held at the San Antonio Church on Sept. 23, 2017, at 4pm. The reunion will follow immediately after the Mass, from 5:30pm to 10pm, at the Surf Club (beach side) in Chalan Kanoa, the former Pacific Gardenia Sunset Bar and Grill. To purchase a reunion ticket or to get more information, send an email to cnmiclassof87@gmail.com or join the CNMI Class of '87 Facebook for updates on the reunion event and/or to request for ticket. ***(PR)***

Triple J donates to Wish foundation, CCA

The first Triple J-led Foam and Fun Run welcomed over 1,000 participants on Saturday, Sept. 2, enabling the company to raise enough funds to be donated to two charitable causes.

This Friday, Triple J Saipan Inc. will hand over the proceeds to the Make-A-Wish Foundation Guam-CNMI Chapter and the Commonwealth Cancer Association at the Surf Club restaurant.

"We are delighted with the turnout and success of this year's…Triple J Family 5K Run. Our business focus has always been on giving back to those who've helped us prosper. That commitment extends to the group's community involvement. We greatly appreciate the generous support of our sponsors and partners—the over 100 individuals from various groups and agencies alongside our Triple J employee volunteers who helped us in a variety of ways and especially our over 1,000 runners," said Jeffrey B. Jones, president and COO, Triple J Enterprises, Inc. "It was a fun and memorable way to celebrate and support our local non -profit organizations whose mission is to support our community."

The company hopes to make the fun run an annual event. ***(PR)***

CONGRATULATIONS CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Team Onion Turtle of Marianas High School successfully conquered Konqer Saipan King of the Hills last Saturday, Sept 9, 2017, at the Gov. Eloy S. Inos Peace Park. From left to right, Wataru Tajima, Ken Song, Logan Mister, Royce Angelo Ben, Jether Yobech, Rex Anngelo De Jose, Andrei Ferrer, Clarence John Cabang, and Haruya Eda

DPL

SSFM CNMI, LLC
Project Managers • Planners • Engineers
Locally Owned and Managed
Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

CNMI COMPREHENSIVE PUBLIC LAND USE PLAN UPDATE FOR ROTA, TINIAN, SAIPAN, AND THE NORTHERN ISLANDS

A PROJECT UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS

The Department of Public Lands (DPL) has recently retained SSFM CNMI, LLC along with their sub-consultants, Chris Hart & Partners, Inc. and John M. Knox & Associates, Inc., to update the CNMI's Public Land Use Plan in order to satisfy Public Law 15-02. This effort is intended to incorporate the public's interests as well as government agencies and groups representing commercial interests.

The first of two public hearings regarding the CNMI Comprehensive Public Land Use Plan Update for Rota, Tinian, Saipan, and the Northern Islands have been scheduled for each municipality as follows:

1) Municipality of Rota
   a. Date – Monday, September 18, 2017
   b. Time – 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM
   c. Location – Rota Mayor's Office Conference Hall, Rota
2) Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
   a. Date – Tuesday, September 19, 2017
   b. Time – 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM
   c. Location – Tinian Elementary School Cafeteria, Tinian
3) Municipality of Saipan
   a. Date – Wednesday, September 20, 2017
   b. Time – 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM
   c. Location – Multi-Purpose Hall, Susupe, Saipan
4) Municipality of the Northern Islands
   a. Date – Thursday, September 21, 2017
   b. Time – 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM
   c. Location – Northern Islands Mayor's Office, Bldg. 1345, Capitol Hill, Saipan

Comments on the Comprehensive Public Land Use Plan Update may be submitted orally or in writing at any of the scheduled public hearings. Persons unable to attend, including off-island residents, may download a stakeholder survey form from (http://www.dpl.gov.mp/land-use-plan-resources/) and submit it to rreyes@ssfmcnmillc.com and jhart@chpmaui.com by September 29, 2017 to ensure that your interests are heard and considered. After the public hearings, all comments and feedback from the public will be compiled for incorporation into the updated public land use plan. Therefore, the public is encouraged to attend any of the scheduled public hearings. Before finalization of the plan update, there will be a second public hearing for all the municipalities mentioned above. Information will follow.

If you have any questions regarding the public hearings, please contact SSFM CNMI at (670) 233-7770.

CNMI DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
AMERICA'S SBDC CNMI
CDA COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

FREE Small Business Development Workshops

LEARN MORE: EMPLOYEE VS. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR

Wednesday, September 20th, 2017

8:30am—9:30am

Location:

CDA Board Room, 1st Floor, San Jose

Presented by:

Michael Dotts,

Partner, O'Connor Berman Dotts & Banes

Michael Dotts has practiced in San Francisco with a large employment firm then came to Saipan to assist in securities litigation in 1988. Michael led six employers to election victories against labor unions and has defended numerous Title VII cases against the EEOC, and defended FLSA cases against DOL. Today, Michael focuses on real estate, corporate law, and employment law.

YOUR PARTNERS FOR SUCCESS

Supported by: PACIFIC LAWYERS

Limited Seating. Register now at: pisbdcn.ecenterdirect.com

For more information or to reserve your seats today, contact the CNMI SBDC at 670-664-3018 or visit www.pacificsbdc.com

DISCLAIMER: The Pacific Islands SBDC Network is funded in part through a co-operative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration. All opinions, conclusions or recommendations expressed are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the SBA. Requests for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities will be made if requested at least two weeks in advance. Language assistance services are available for limited English proficient individuals with enough advance notice. For arrangements, please contact Lorie Pangilinan, P.O. Box 5795 CHRB, Saipan MP 96950 Tel: (670) 664-3018 or Email lorie@pacificsbdc.com. Services are extended to the public on a non-discriminatory basis.

IT&E, NMTI forge partnership to develop local workforce

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

IT&E has partnered with the Northern Marianas Trades Institute to learn technical skills that would hopefully alleviate the CNMI's labor and workforce needs.

The first batch of IT&E employees are set take the Combination Technician Program at NMTI on Monday, Sept. 18.

NMTI acting director of instruction David Attao said the program is meant to upgrade the technical skills of the current pool of IT&E technicians and employees.

IT&E head of network Velma Palacios said this is IT&E's way of continuously investing in its employees and the community.

"This partnership with NMTI is another investment. We know the importance of training, developing and retaining our workforce. We have been working with NMTI to develop a curriculum that would benefit our company and employees in the long term," she said

The Level 1 courses will last four months covering such topics as hand bending of conduit, introduction to the national electrical code, and low voltage cabling.

Second line, third from left, IT&E Human Resources director Shirley M. Dotts, IT&E development officer Daphne Leon Guerrero, IT&E director of Network Velma Palacios, IT&E general manager–CNMI and regional controller Rose Soledad, and NMTI and IT&E staff are surrounded by future trainees.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

"The purpose of the training is to provide an opportunity to our employees to upgrade their skills and earn national certification at the same time to keep up with the changing technology," Palacios said.

"We have many employees in various departments within our company who are interested in advancing their knowledge and skills. This will help our employees understand general theory and concepts while applying it to their everyday jobs," she added.

The courses, accredited by the National Center for Construction Education and Research, would give participating students the ability to receive national certification in the field of electronics.

"As a premier employer in our community, IT&E has shown us a great deal of trust in training its employees," said Ross Manglona, NMTI director of Continuing Education & Workforce Development. "We see this partnership as a means to get a steady flow of interested students, which will directly benefit them in the long run."

The training has a two-fold purpose. Aside from training current IT&E employees, non-employees will get the chance to sit in class to have a learning environment of sharing experiences and exchange of ideas.

"Non-employees will get a chance to sit in class with existing IT&E employees, giving students insight into the industry, while exchanging real world experiences with those in the field," Manglona said.

Local training and hiring are being encouraged and partnerships like this help resolve workforce issues.

"It is IT&E's hope for as many of our IT&E employees to take advantage of these training classes. As we continue to develop and train our employees, it would benefit everyone," said Palacios.

"We thank IT&E for this opportunity to work with them and offer our programs in hopes that this would spark other interests within the general public," Attao said.

Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting Agenda

Thursday, September 28, 2017
5:00 PM, Multipurpose Center, Susupe
Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • www.zoning.gov.mp

A. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of 08/09/2017 meeting minutes
5. Public Comments (not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)

B. Public Hearings:
1. **Conditional Use Application #2017-2980**: Green Estate Holdings (CNMI), LLC is proposing to occupy an existing building for its car service area and construct a new structure for its Auto/Bus repair service area. This use is classified as "Vehicle Repair, General" and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot Nos. 463-NEW-6 & 463-NEW-7 in Chalan Piao. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial.
2. **Rezone Application #2017-3071:** Haohe, LLC is requesting to rezone Lot 347 in San Jose/Oleai from "Village Commercial" to "Tourist Resort" zoning district for a hotel development. Lot is located north of the track & field; between Teer Drive and Oleai Street on the east side of Beach Road, directly across former Borja Funeral Home.
3. **Conditional Use Application #2017-3396:** Sheng Yuan International, Inc. dba Airport Castle Hotel is proposing to occupy an existing 7-storey structure to operate a hotel, with 73 rooms and 154 parking spaces. This use is classified as "Hotel/Motel" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lots H246 (1 to 23 lots) on Airport Road. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.
4. **Conditional Use Application #2017-3449:** Marianas Outsource LLC dba SaveMore Market is proposing to occupy an existing one-storey building for a "Mom & Pop Grocery Store". This use is classified as "Mom & Pop Grocery Store" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 015 D 46-49, along President Street in China Town. This area is zoned as Village Residential.
5. **Conditional Use Application #2017-3481:** MEC, LLC dba WSTCO Retail Feeds Store and Staff House is proposing to construct a new structure for its Animal Feed store and also proposes to renovate an existing one-storey structure and construct a 2nd floor for its staff housing. These uses are classified as "Warehousing and General Wholesaling" and "Institutional Residential" respectively, and are permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 380-BNEW 7-1-2 in Susupe. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.

C. Communication
D. Old Business
E. New Business
1. Operations Reports (Permitting & Enforcement)

F. Executive (Closed) Session
G. Miscellaneous
a. Other Matters
b. Announcements
c. Next Meeting

H. Adjourn

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Administrator, Therese T. Ogumoro, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 17-092

Opening Date: Thursday, September 14, 2017
Closing Date: Until Filled

Chief Electrical Engineer: Licensed Electrical Engineer (Re-announcement)

DUTIES: Under the direct supervision of the Power Division Manager or his/her designee. As assigned, supervises staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff is trained; ensuring that employees follow policies and procedures; maintaining a healthy and safe working environment; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Manages complex water, wastewater, or electrical projects and executing programs and elements of the stipulated order as required by EPA; coordinates and meets with other divisional sections and corporate divisions to coordinate activities and projects. Performs project management activities to include: preparing reports, correspondence and recommendations; developing scope of work; providing technical reviews; surveying for projects; scheduling project elements; evaluating proposals; monitoring project progress and funding; and, recommending project selection. Prepares engineering calculations, plans and specifications; designs water, wastewater or other utility related facilities; collects data and performs project research related to project and operational costs, and efficiency analysis. Manages construction and performs contract management work; evaluates bid documents; maintains correspondence with contractors; reviews submittals; interprets drawings and technical specifications; and evaluates work for compliance with contract provisions. Performs construction inspections; reviews and processes payment requests from contractors. Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

LOCATION: **Power Division, Transmission and Distribution Section, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands,** USA. (Saipan has a population of about 50K. It is adjacent to Asia and about a 3-hour flight south of Tokyo. It is about 100 miles north of the US Territory of Guam)
SALARY: Starting at $100,000.00 (Commensurate with qualification and experience), Exempt status. If hired from outside the Northern Mariana Islands, terms and conditions of the relocation cost will be negotiated. However, the accommodations shall not exceed $5,000 for moving to the islands and shall not exceed $5,000 for moving away from the islands.
CONTRACT: Two (2) years, subject to renewal
POSITIONS: One (1)

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Bachelor's Degree in Engineering, Licensed PE, 5 years professional engineering, and experience working in a power transmission and distribution system. **Knowledge of**: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Supervisory principles, practices and techniques (based on assignment); Engineering and construction principles, methods, practices, and techniques; Engineering planning, specification, and drawing methods and techniques; Mathematical concepts; Applicable equipment, controls and systems of assigned area of responsibility; Safety principles and practices; Data collection techniques; Research methods; Project management principles; Contract administration principles; Customer service principles; Quality assurance principles; Modern office technology. **Skills in:** Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Supervising, monitoring, training and evaluating staff (based on assignment); Managing complex projects and construction activities; Developing project scope and plan; Monitoring project schedules, status and compliance; Preparing plan designs, calculations, technical specifications, and other technical documentation; Planning and designing utility facilities; Performing technical review of submittals; Interpreting drawings and technical specifications; Monitoring project funding and expenditures; Maintaining project files and records; Performing research and efficiency studies; Responding to technical inquiries and information requests; Identifying, troubleshooting and investigating issues; Recommending, developing and implementing solutions; Conducting inspections; Collecting, analyzing and researching field data; Administering and monitoring contract compliance; Assisting with bid administration processes; Applying safe work practices; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Applicants may be tested. Subject to pre-employment drug test.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office or e-mail to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

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SYP to lead Toys for Tots drive in the CNMI

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

BEA CABRERA
From left, Lance Cpl. Samuel Brusseau, Gunnery Sgt. Macclester, Saipan Chamber of Commerce executive director Jill Arenovski, Chamber administrator Mercilyn Palec, Maj. Timothy Patrick and GT Sgt. Justin Park during the Toys For Tots launch.

The Saipan Young Professionals is taking up the Toys For Tots program of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve to spread hope and goodwill to less fortunate children in the CNMI.

Marine Corps Activity Guam public affairs officer Maj. Timothy Patrick shared how SYP showed initiative to extend the program in the CNMI.

"A month ago we ran across the Saipan Young Professionals in Guam, and we struck up a conversation. They came back here and asked us if we will be able to support their Toys for Tots initiative on the island," he said.

"So we went to headquarters and asked if we can open up a new Toys for Tots program in the CNMI. Opening a program outside the mainland has never been done before. This is the first time in 70 years," he added.

According to Patrick, they received enthusiastic support from headquarters and immediately gave them everything they needed to get started.

The program aims to collect new, unwrapped toys in October, November, and December each year, and distribute those toys as Christmas gifts to less fortunate children in the community.

"Saipan Young Professionals is the one leading it. We plan to work closely together. This is their program and we are here to support in any way they need," said Patrick.

"Saipan Chamber of Commerce executive director Jill Arenovski was able to show us just how healthy a giving community Saipan is. Around Christmas, you have tons of organizations that we are able to help and we thought how can we support that," he added.

Creating awareness about the program is currently underway.

"We have to get the word out and SYP is on top of that because they have done many projects in the past and promotion and creating awareness is their forte. The program relies heavily on media and social media to create more awareness," Patrick said.

"With collections, what we typically do is take a box and either we work with business owners or Parks and Recreation, anywhere that there is potential for public venue, and we put the boxes there. We drop off the box and once it is filled we empty it," he added.

SYP is in charge of the most important role in the program—identifying where the toys will go.

According to Patrick, the primary goal of Toys for Tots is to deliver a new toy at Christmas to less fortunate children to send a message of hope.

"For some communities that we have been to, especially after natural disasters, things are tough and potable water, medicine, and food are really the things that you need."

"We think of a young child as the future. A toy represents hope. It might not represent hope to someone who gets everything but for a child that is less fortunate or maybe missed out on Christmas, we find that toys in the right situation with the right child translate to hope," he added.

SYP is a committee of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT FOR ACCOUNTANT

The Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence (NMCADSV) is looking for a motivated individual to join its team! We are looking for someone who is rooted in service and believes in the social justice values we uphold.

Minimum Qualifications:
An understanding of and agreement with NMCADSV's mission statement and philosophy regarding the elimination of domestic and sexual violence.
CPA required.
Experience working on non-profit fiscal management and federal grants.
Must be able to travel within the CNMI and to the US Mainland.
Must have own transportation, with documented insurance, registration and a valid driver's license.

Extra consideration will be given for the following:
Quickbooks and Microsoft Excel expertise.
Familiarity with 2 CFR, Chapter I, Chapter II, Part 200, et. al.

Classification & Salary Range: Part-time, Non-Exempt. 20 – 30 hours per week.
$20.00/hr to $25.00/hr (based on experience and qualifications)

Copies of the full Position Description are available through maisie@endviolencenmi.org or via hard copy at the NMCADSV office (directions below).

Application Deadline and Submission Information:
Resume and Cover Letter should be submitted on or before 5:00 p.m. on
Friday, September 15, 2017.
If submitting certificates and awards, please provide a list only.
Late and incomplete submissions will not be considered.

Applications may be submitted via email to maisie@endviolencenmi.org, delivered to NMCADSV's office **(between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.)** at the Spring's Plaza Building on Middle Road (north of XO Market), or mailed to NMCADSV, P.O. Box 506689, Saipan, MP 96950. (Mailed applications must be postmarked on or before the deadline.) Applicants who are invited for an interview will be asked to bring a copy of their Diploma or equivalent, Police Clearance, proof of Certification, and a list of references.

NMCADSV is an equal opportunity employer. Individuals from under-served communities are encouraged to apply.

This project is 100% supported by federal grants, awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice, Grant Award #2015-MU-AX-0003 and Grant # G-1701MPSDVC awarded by the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this release are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Justice or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Northern Marianas Humanities Council
Navigating the Human Experience

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Board of Directors
Northern Marianas Humanities Council

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council (Council) wishes to announce four vacancies on its board of directors.

The Council is a non-profit, private corporation affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Council's mission is to "foster awareness, understanding and appreciation of the humanities through support of educational programs that relate the humanities to the indigenous cultures and to the intellectual needs and interests of the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The Council's board is comprised of thirteen volunteer members who serve three year terms. The Council strives to maintain a board that reflects a broad cross-section of our CNMI community. The ideal candidate will have a strong desire to promote the Council's mission, programs, and activities and to actively participate in fundraising activities. Board responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Attending regular Council meetings four time annually;
- Raising funds for Council programs;
- Promoting awareness about the Council's mission and its programs in the community;
- Attending Council programs and activities;
- Participating in working committee meetings;
- Evaluating Council programs and activities;
- Reviewing grant applications;
- Providing input about the humanities from various community members, and
- Attending conferences, workshops and other meetings on behalf of the Council

Applicants are invited to submit their letters of interest and resumes to Frankie M. Eliptico, Chair, Northern Marianas Humanities Council at Post Office Box 506437, Saipan, MP 96950 or delivered to the Council's office located in the Springs Plaza Building in Gualo Rai. Letters of interest and resumes must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday, October 13, 2017. For additional information please contact the Council's Executive Director, Scott Russell, at telephone 235-4785 or visit the Council's website at www.northernmarianashumanities.org.

Job Fair

A team from Century Tours was one of the companies that joined last Thursday's Cooperative Education Program job fair at the Royal Taga Ballroom of the Saipan World Resort.

Commonwealth Ports Authority human resources administrator Jadene Villagomez, right, said the CPA "is a good place for [cooperative program students] to build a foundation and you grow with the agency. I myself started my career at CPA asking if it's really good for me. Twelve years later, I'm still with them."

First lady Diann Torres led her foundation in interviewing students at the Co-op Education Program job fair.

PHOTOS By BEA CABRERA

Brandon Nicholas, standing upper left, is joined by other members of his Cooperative Education Program team at the Royal Taga Ballroom of the Saipan World Resort last Thursday, Sept. 7.

Penny Jones, right, personnel officer of Hyatt Regency Saipan, is joined by Denise Montenegro, Hyatt's learning manager, and Eddrynn Bayot, a former F&B trainee.

Anna Olaes, left, HR/marketing director of McDonald's Saipan, also set up a table at the Royal Taga Ballroom of the Saipan World Resort last Thursday, Sept. 7.

Kesington Hotel of E-Land Corp. is a partner of the Cooperative Education this year.

Teesha Aguon, a senior high school student at Marianas High School, is hoping to get a job with Division of Youth Services.

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Sheng Yuan International, Inc. dba Airport Castle Hotel

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Sheng Yuan International, Inc. dba Airport Castle Hotel is proposing to occupy an existing 7-storey structure to operate a hotel, with 73 rooms and 154 parking spaces. This use is classified as "Hotel/Motel" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lots H246 (1 to 23 lots) on Airport Road. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.

Date: Thursday, September 28, 2017
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Multi-purpose Center, Susupe

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, September 27, 2017. Please send written comments via e-mail toTherese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Green Estate Holdings (CNMI), LLC

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Green Estate Holdings (CNMI), LLC is proposing to occupy an existing building for its car service area and construct a new structure for its Auto/Bus repair area. This use is classified as "Vehicle Repair, General" and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot Nos. 463-NEW-6 & 463-NEW-7 in Chalan Piao. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial.

Date: Thursday, September 28, 2017
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Multi-purpose Center, Susupe

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, September 27, 2017. Please send written comments via e-mail toTherese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
INVITATION TO BID (ITB)
ITB17-CHCC/HA-003

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: September 21, 2017 TIME: 11:00AM

"TWO (2) ANESTHESIA SYSTEM, HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATION, COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

COPIES OF THE ITB PACKET MAY BE PICKED –UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP-17-CHCC/WIC-25

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: September 19, 2017 TIME: 10:00AM

"REPAINTING PROJECT, WOMEN, INFANTS, &CHILDREN (WIC), COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

MANDATORY PRE-SUBMISSION ON-SITE ASSESSMENT
A MANDATORY ON-SITE ASSESSMENT OF THE PROJECT AREA WILL BE HELD AT 9:00A.M., MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2017. ALL INTERESTED VENDORS MUST ATTEND.

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED –UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

Field of Heroes remembers 9/11 victims, honors heroes

Cadets of the Ayuyu Battalion of Kagman High School have their picture taken after the Field of Heroes event at the American Memorial Park last Monday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Tan Siu Lin Foundation and TanHoldings Corp. led a community effort to mark the 16th anniversary of the 9/11 terror attacks by honoring its victims and first responders last Monday at the American Memorial Park.

The second Field of Heroes ceremony last Monday capped a commemoration that took place not just on Saipan but also on Rota and Tinian, honoring the islands' heroes and the those who have given their lives to protect the United States.

The Saipan commemoration started with the Freedom Walk, a walkathon participated in by the public from the Garapan Fishing Base to the American Memorial Park.

The event, which got started a year ago under the auspices of TanHoldings, entails the posting of American flags that are sponsored by community members. The money goes toward raising awareness of post-traumatic stress disorder and supports the treatment of those with PTSD.

According to Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan, he had vowed to visit all three islands to pay tribute to not only the 9/11 heroes but also to those individuals who lost their lives during the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001.

"I promised myself that I'm going to go to all three islands on 9/11 every year because this is so important to everyone," said Tan.

He said the event is not new; it's been adopted from practices across the United States, yet it has become extremely important to him.

"This is something that many cities in the United States have been doing for many years…we kind of adopted the franchise…this is very important to me personally, for our company, because we will never forget," said Tan.

The ceremony not only honors the heroes who fought for the United States and are still fighting for it but it is also a tribute to the many heroes who lost their lives during 9/11.

"9/11 was probably the most important major attack on the U.S. after Pearl Harbor and it changed the world," Tan said. "It is very important that we come together once a year in this setting and salute those first responders."

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang said the community's effort is what keeps the Field of Heroes' ceremony meaningful. "Your presence here tells us a lot about us today, that we can do and we can come together to recognize, remember, and honor those among us who commit themselves to helping others," said Apatang.

Although heroes come and go over the years, he said, those who first responded on Sept. 11, 2001, will remain heroes forever.

"Our heroes when the first attack occurred on the morning hours of Sept. 11, 2001, remain our heroes since then and still today, and for the years to come," said Apatang.

Tinian Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas said the importance of the event is that it celebrates those men and women who face the fears that many other do not during a crisis.

"This Field of Heroes, we fly our flags in honor of those who face our fears for us during times of great tragedy," said San Nicolas.

He thanked the Tan Siu Lin Foundation for its efforts in bringing awareness of the event to all three islands.

Tan thanked the Commonwealth government for granting him the opportunity to take the lead in this annual event.

"I would like to thank the community and the government officials for allowing us, and our company, to lead this project," he said.

The Ayuyu Battalion color guard presents the colors at the Field of Heroes event at the American Memorial Park last Monday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

MEC, LLC dba WSTCO
Retail Feeds Store and Staff House

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. MEC, LLC dba WSTCO Retail Feeds Store and Staff House is proposing to construct a new structure for its Animal Feed store and also proposes to renovate an existing one-storey structure and construct a 2nd floor for its staff housing. These uses are classified as "Warehousing and General Wholesaling" and "Institutional Residential" respectively, and are permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 380-BNEW 7-1-2 in Susupe. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.

Date: Thursday, September 28, 2017
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Multi-purpose Center, Susupe

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, September 27, 2017. Please send written comments via e-mail toTherese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Marianas Outsource LLC
dba SaveMore Market

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Marianas Outsource LLC dba SaveMore Market is proposing to occupy an existing one-storey building for a "Mom & Pop Grocery Store". This use is classified as "Mom & Pop Grocery Store" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 015 D 46-49, along President Street in China Town. This area is zoned as Village Residential.

Date: Thursday, September 28, 2017
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Multi-purpose Center, Susupe

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, September 27, 2017. Please send written comments via e-mail toTherese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

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/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

COMMONWEALTH
ZONING BOARD

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Proposed Amendment to the
Official Saipan Zoning Map (Rezone) for
Haohe, LLC

The Commonwealth Zoning Board is seeking your comments on the following proposed amendment (rezone) to the Official Saipan Zoning Map. Haohe, LLC is requesting to rezone Lot 347 in San Jose/Oleai, from "Village Commercial" to "Tourist Resort" zoning district for a hotel development. Lot is located north of the track & field; between Teer Drive and Oleai Street on the east side of Beach Road; directly across former Borja Funeral Home.
A public hearing will be held on:

Date: September 28, 2017
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Multipurpose Center, Susupe

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 3:00 pm, September 27, 2017. Please send written comments via e-mail to Therese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Disasters test and teach us

Monday was tough.

We began to discover the extent of the havoc wreaked by Hurricane Irma in Florida, as many Caribbean islands struggled to comprehend the storm's vicious blow. And with images just as fresh as if it were yesterday, we marked the 16th anniversary of Sept. 11 by recalling those who lost their lives and those who tried to save them.

Whether we huddled under storm clouds or gathered under deep blue skies, we all were reminded of our human condition:

We live and we learn.

In the aftermath of 9/11 and its incomprehensible loss of life, we learned that our brave first responders need to communicate with each other on a single radio frequency. We learned that workers must take more precautions when toiling on toxic piles. We learned we have a responsibility to take care of those made sick by that work. And we learned about the daily vigilance needed to combat terrorism and the importance of heeding early warning signs, lessons bolstered by Monday's announcement of $39 million in federal funding for counterterrorism efforts in New York.

From Katrina to Sandy to Harvey, our worst storms also have taught us a lot. We learned to ensure continued access to our gasoline supply and protect our power sources. We became more aware of the need to build more wisely and, sometimes, the wisdom of not building at all.

Nationally, the slow federal response to Katrina in 2005 showed that political hacks cannot be put in key leadership positions, like the then-head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Harvey and Irma revealed that governments had learned to put emergency response personnel in place before storms hit to assist in decision-making and speed up the recovery in the critical first days. Irma showed that residents learned from Harvey a scant two weeks earlier as Floridians heeded official warnings, evacuating by the hundreds of thousands to seek shelter.

But some important learning about predicting severe weather comes from scientific research, and that must be funded. The Trump administration, which shows a dangerous disdain for science as well as the workings of government, has proposed budget cuts that defy logic—cuts to the National Weather Service to update models for more accurate predictions, and to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for satellites, advanced forecasting and to help coastal states prepare for bad weather. As much as we know about wind, we need to better understand how water feeds storms and how storms move water.

The government also needs to keep citizens safe and to help them recover from harm, which makes inexplicable Trump's proposals to slash FEMA funding for grants for local and state governments, eliminate block grant fund-

See DISASTERS on Next Page

If Dreamers are lawbreakers, change the law

By JOHN M. CRISP
Tribune News Service

John M. Crisp, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service*, lives in Georgetown, Texas, and can be reached at jcrispcolumns@gmail.com.*

The future of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals policy is in question. During the presidential campaign, candidate Donald Trump promised to dismantle the program if he were elected but, last week, he was equivocal.

Attorney General Jeff Sessions advised the Department of Homeland Security that it "should rescind" DACA, an action that would put in jeopardy the 800,000 beneficiaries of the program (the Dreamers), which shields from deportation undocumented residents who were brought into this country as children.

In a subsequent tweet, President Trump urged Congress to "legalize DACA" within six months and, preferably, as part of a larger immigration overhaul.

A couple of days later, Trump tweeted reassurance to the Dreamers: "For all of those (DACA) that are concerned about your status during the 6 month period, you have nothing to worry about—No action!"

I suspect, however, that it's a rare Dreamer who will rest easy based on the tweets of our mercurial president. The chances of Congress producing comprehensive immigration reform within six months seem slim. And the Trump who today claims to "love" the Dreamers may tomorrow crave a boost from his base, which generally supports swift deportation of everyone whose presence in our country is not duly documented.

The fact that many of the Dreamers have lived most of their lives with this sort of precarious uncertainty surely doesn't make it any easier. Many have few or no memories of the country in which they were born. Many aren't conversant in Spanish or any language other than English, the primary language of the land that is their only home.

They have grown up with the nagging knowledge that a minor traffic violation could lead to deportation, either for themselves or a close relative. President Barack Obama's DACA program provided a two-year reprieve from the anxiety. Now that's gone.

Of course, the Dreamers' presence in our country is a violation of the law, and DACA's most outspoken opponents often rely on a powerful talking point: "We are a nation of laws."

But this assertion has a pious undertone. Others have pointed out the irony of Trump shifting positions on DACA shortly after pardoning Sheriff Joe Arpaio, a convicted lawbreaker. In fact, in one of the world's most incarcerated countries, we often drop the legal hammer hard on the least powerful while rewarding the rich and connected with impunity.

Thus President Ford pardoned President Nixon. Thus General Petraeus got a mild hand slap for divulging secret information. Thus our prisons are filled with brown- and black-skinned Americans who were prosecuted for marijuana possession, while celebrities such as Bill Maher, Willie Nelson and Woody Harrelson publicly make pot-smoking a part of their brand.

So, let's not be overly sanctimonious about rigid adherence to the law. The Dreamers' parents brought them into this country in violation of the law but in complete accord with the long-standing tacit understanding that when cheap labor flows north from Mexico and money flows south, everyone benefits. And often, in the service of this understanding, the law just looked the other way.

The law is what we make it and what we make of it. We are not slaves to the law, and the law can be wrong. The president's position on DACA is uncertain, but Congress' course should be clear: It should act to remove the threat of deportation from the Dreamers and provide for a path to legal status.

By most accounts, the Dreamers are honest, responsible people who are working hard to improve themselves and our nation. Most are deeply devoted to the only home they have ever known. They are here through no fault of their own. If the law supposes them to be something else, then I paraphrase Charles Dickens' Mr. Bumble, who said, "The law is an ass." Congress has the power and the support of the American people to change the law. It should do so, and quickly.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Katrina, Harvey and a flood of memories

By MAURICE CARLOS RUFFIN
Los Angeles Times

Maurice Carlos Ruffin's debut novel, We Cast a Shadow*, is forthcoming from One World Random House in 2019. He wrote this for the* Los Angeles Times.

Every year I tell myself I'm over Hurricane Katrina, and every year I'm wrong. This year I got a double reminder that Katrina's wounds can be treated but never healed. First, in early August, a "rain event" flooded numerous New Orleans neighborhoods. Parts of the city were inaccessible. Two African-American landmarks that were destroyed by Katrina in 2005 and rebuilt, the Zulu Social Aid & Pleasure Club and the Circle Food Store, were once again swamped. Some of my friends lost cars and other possessions. Then, Hurricane Harvey.

The two storms—one unnamed and the other with a name now imprinted on Texan brains the way Katrina is on mine—reignited the disbelief, pain and anger I felt back in August 2005, feelings I've never completely let go of. It was surreal to watch so much of Texas go underwater. My family and I escaped to Houston after Katrina, so I recognized the random highway overpasses and frontage roads in the last week's news reports.

Katrina didn't take my life. But it took almost everything else. On Aug. 28, 2005, I had a good job, a fine house and a fast car. A week later, I had none of those. I come from a large family and all eight or 10 of our houses within New Orleans' city limits were consumed by water. Katrina was a shock because it was a surprise. A few days before landfall, it was a Category 1 storm. In New Orleans, that's an opportunity to take a day off work and spend time with your loved ones. Also, Katrina crossed the Florida peninsula, which usually acts like a buffer, turning potentially catastrophic weather into merely annoying weather. This time, Katrina regrouped over the warm waters of the Gulf of Mexico and grew exponentially at an incredible pace. Sound familiar?

Texas was good to my family. When we arrived in Houston, we had nothing but a couple of days' worth of clothes, my new guitar, and insurance papers, which would prove worthless when the insurers argued all flood damage was excluded from coverage. We were tired, rancid and broke. But a relief agency gave us a charge card for emergency expenses. Someone directed us to an apartment to rent in the Woodlands. At a Walmart in Katy, a random woman offered to buy us whatever clothes we needed. We didn't take her up on her offer, but the gesture made me feel like we weren't alone. Like someone cared.

Meanwhile, it was impossible to turn on the TV, radio or computer without seeing the devastation and breathless commentary about the devastation. A suburban mall's parking lot was covered in water so that one of the big box department stores looked like a ship at sea. A voice on the radio wondered aloud if New Orleans would ever be habitable again. Someone online said we got what we deserved for tolerating Bourbon Street. And a major news network camera briefly panned toward a street sign near the corner of my house. High water lapped at the neck of the signpost. I didn't know what condition anything of ours was in: family photos, our desktop computer, my wife's wedding dress. My wish that the camera would swivel around for just a second didn't come true.

But the media missed the main part of the story. Not long after the water began to recede, the reporters and networks moved on to other matters. Two major airlines filed for bankruptcy. George W. Bush nominated John G. Roberts Jr. to the United States Supreme Court. Gilligan from "Gilligan's Island" died. The cameras weren't watching as New Orleanians displaced as far away as Alaska and Hawaii made plans to come home. Some would return. Many thousands couldn't afford to. We were lucky.

An arduous journey awaited us. A flooded home is a poisonous husk. It's filled with mildew, mold and soured memories. We needed a place to stay while the repairs moved forward. But rent in the city skyrocketed to Park Avenue levels. Flood insurance rates also increased. Trustworthy and skilled contractors were in short supply. The market reacted by attracting countless con artists who accepted checks, performed perfunctory work and promptly disappeared. The grocery stores were closed. The churches were closed. The restaurants were closed. It was rare to see a functioning street light or hear a child playing in a yard. Even the insects had been killed off by toxic water.

But we persisted. Washington couldn't tell us how to find a reputable contractor, but our friends and neighbors could. It wasn't the president who convinced us that we could help bring our city back. It was phone calls with family members.

It would take seven months of constant work before we were able to move back into our house. And even then it was only partly inhabitable. No kitchen, no master bedroom, no full bath. The house wouldn't be finished for nearly a year. We would never see half the neighbors on our block again. One neighbor came back but didn't finish his repairs until just after the 10-year anniversary of Katrina. But his tardiness was justified: He did the work all by himself.

While it's true the nation pays attention when the media descend on New Orleans every August since 2005, no reporters saw us muck ruined family photos into garbage bags. They didn't watch us haul our rotten refrigerator to the curb for collection. They weren't there the first time we turned the lights back on.

Hurricanes like Katrina and Harvey change you. In a fire, a home is lost. But in a catastrophic flood, a community is transformed. The people you turn to in hard times—first responders, clergy, social workers—are suffering from the same psychic injuries as every other survivor. If you were touched by Hurricane Harvey, you will experience some form of mental health challenge: depression, anxiety, PTSD. The first time another storm threatens, you will wonder why you chose to live in Houston or Baytown or Rockport. You will wonder whether you should stay.

These are not questions with easy answers. Although there are solutions for the problems that cause flooding, they are costly and require enormous political will. Each person affected by Harvey will have to weigh whether to stand and fight or move to higher ground. As someone living below sea level for 40 years, I'm in no position to offer impartial advice.

Why I'm suing Trump over DACA

By JANET NAPOLITANO
Los Angeles Times

Janet Napolitano, U.S. secretary of Homeland Security from 2009 to 2013, is president of the University of California. She wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

As secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, a little more than five years ago I signed the directive that created the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program. Last week, President Donald Trump ended DACA on not much more than a whim. On Friday, in my capacity as president of the University of California, I filed a lawsuit in federal court seeking to prevent the government from stripping DACA recipients of their ability to live, study and work in our country free from fear of deportation.

By definition and practice, DACA recipients were brought to the United States when they were children. They know no other country other than the one we share. They pay taxes. They contribute to our economy—nearly 55 percent of them have bought cars, 12 percent have bought homes and 6 percent have launched businesses that create jobs for U.S. citizens. They seek to serve in our military and better themselves through education. In all ways except one, they are American.

I recognize that it is unusual for a former Cabinet official to sue the agency she once led. It may be even more unusual to challenge as unconstitutional, unjust and unlawful the elimination of a program originally established by the plaintiff _ me _ in this litigation.

My anger at DACA's rescission doesn't stem from pride in the work done to create this program, although I am very proud of the program. Instead it is motivated by the harm that eliminating DACA will cause to the so-called Dreamers at the University of California, the 10-campus system I now lead, and to the nearly 800,000 Dreamers across our country.

As UC president, I've seen the exceptional contributions Dreamers are making to the nation. They represent the very best of our country. All DACA recipients have gone through a rigorous application process that verifies they are productive members of our communities and have clean records, including more than 100,000 who have had their applications renewed by the Trump administration.

Yet the Department of Homeland Security, in rescinding DACA, baselessly claims that the program was unlawful. It offers no rationale based on the merits of DACA itself, but rather on the purported illegality of a separate program with different rules and aimed at different immigrants (the parents of DACA-eligible young people), a program that never went into effect. That justification is flat out wrong. The DACA program was a legal exercise of the department's prosecutorial discretion and no court has found DACA to be invalid.

In fact, in 2014, the Department of Justice office that reviews the constitutionality of executive branch actions determined that DACA was lawful. Now the Trump administration's DOJ offers no reasoned analysis for its about-face.

The Administrative Procedure Act prohibits federal agencies from acting in an arbitrary and capricious manner, but that is exactly what Homeland Security has done in its rescission of DACA. It has entirely failed to consider the reliance interest of the Dreamers, such as their expectation that they could study, work and live in the only country they know, or if the program ends, what will happen to the communities and universities where DACA recipients thrive.

Finally, the department's rescission of DACA tramples on the due process rights of the University of California and its students and employees. DHS cannot take away those rights by executive fiat.

The Trump administration's action harms DACA recipients from a legal perspective and harms our country from a moral perspective. The government is telling these young people that, as a country, we do not value their obvious worth, and that we intend to treat them no differently than a recent adult border crosser. This is wrong, unjust, mean and legally dubious.

As president of the University of California, it is my job to protect the students on our campuses. As the author of DACA, I know its legal basis and its aims. As both, I am suing the administration because its actions on will harm innocent young people and, by extension, all of us.

DISASTERS

From Page 10

ing that helps homeowners and businesses rebuild, and cut international aid that would help our desperate neighbors in the Caribbean.

We understand what the victims of Irma are feeling, what it's like to experience rising waters, shuddering gusts of wind and the sudden loss of power in entire communities.

We continue to live through these national calamities. We must continue to learn from them.

(c)2017 *Newsday*

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.
▲88° ▼78°

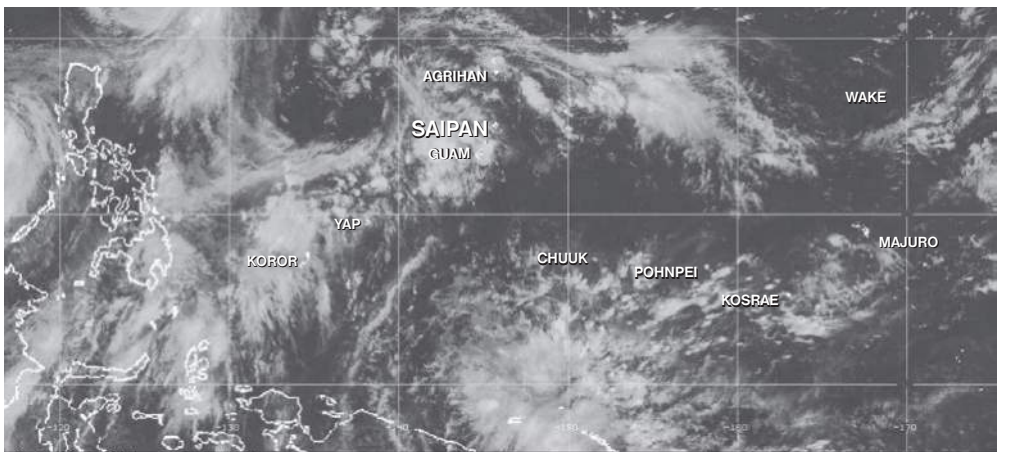
FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southeast winds around 10 mph.
▲88° ▼78°

SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
▲88° ▼78°

SUNDAY
Mostly sunny with isolated showers.
▲90° ▼79°

MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 4:25 AM, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Little change made to the forecast. A surface trough and an upper-level low could be found west of the Marianas this morning. Low-level surface convergence on the back side of the trough and favorable upper-level winds will keep showers scattered through much of the day. Both the surface trough and upper-low will move further west allowing a decrease in shower coverage. Another surface trough and upper-low approaching from the east will bring in another round of scattered showers Thursday night and Friday. Models show that the upper-low will still be to the east of the Marianas, but an area of upper-level divergence will develop on the western side of the low adding in the development of the scattered showers. GFS shows a circulation developing near the Marianas Friday afternoon and night. ECMWF does show a circulation existing for a brief time to the west of the Marianas. NAVGEM shows a circulation developing further west, but also develops a twin east of the Marianas later on.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	84° / 77°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 75°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 75°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	66° / 54°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	81° / 64°
Hong Kong	Showers	88° / 81°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	87° / 75°
London	Showers	63° / 45°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	73° / 64°
Manila	Thunderstorms	90° / 79°
Melbourne	Rain	61° / 43°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	87° / 80°
New York	Mostly Cloudy	82° / 68°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	82° / 66°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	63° / 46°
Busan	Windy	77° / 70°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	77° / 64°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	84° / 64°
San Francisco	Sunny	66° / 57°
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	81° / 61°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	77° / 64°
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	79° / 65°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
12:35 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.78
8:10 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.05
3:25 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.66
8:37 PM	LOW TIDE	1.14

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:05 AM	6:19 PM
Friday	6:05 AM	6:18 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:18 PM
Sunday	6:05 AM	6:17 PM
Monday	6:05 AM	6:16 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	12:05 AM	1:17 PM	-
Friday	1:02 AM	2:15 PM	-
Saturday	2:01 AM	3:11 PM	-
Sunday	3:01 AM	4:04 PM	-
Monday	3:59 am	4:53 pm	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	2, 3, 4
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
TW308	2:35am	6:20am	6, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
ZE582	3:40am	7:00am	Daily
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	4:45am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:00am	10:25am	1
JD396	4:50pm	8:15pm	4

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:00am	1, 2, 4, 6via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	3, 5, 7 via GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	10:40pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	10:40pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	4:40am	8:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA6391/159	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1, 2, 3
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
TW307	8:05pm	1:35am+1	5, 6
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
ZE581	9:00pm	2:40am+1	Daily
LJ651	10:00pm	3:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:10am	3:30pm	4
JD395	10:05pm	5:30am+1	7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:20am	3:00pm	Daily

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA192/6395	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
PR110/UA6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA184/6395	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:20pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:10pm	1:00am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA116/6395	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

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ACME DISPLAY GLASS SHELF (92180)
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*Satisfaction Guaranteed-90 Days Warranty applies

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Business

Apple unveils $999 iPhone X with facial recognition

CUPERTINO, Calif. (AP)—Apple has broken the $1,000 barrier with its latest, and most expensive, phone, the iPhone X.

With a price starting at $999 and a host of new features, the phone will be a big test for both Apple and consumers. Will people be willing to shell out really big bucks for a relatively fragile device that's become an essential part of daily life?

On Tuesday, CEO Tim Cook called the iPhone X "the biggest leap forward" since the first iPhone. ("X" is pronounced like the number 10, not the letter X.) It loses the home button, which revolutionized smartphones when it launched; offers an edge-to-edge screen; and will use facial recognition to unlock the phone.

Apple also unveiled a new iPhone 8 and a larger 8 Plus with upgrades to cameras, displays and speakers.

Those phones, Apple said, will shoot pictures with better colors and less distortion, particularly in low-light settings. The display will adapt to ambient lighting, similar to a feature in some iPad Pro models. Speakers will be louder and offer deeper bass.

Both iPhone 8 versions will allow wireless charging, a feature already offered in many Android phones, including Samsung models. Some Android phones have also previously eliminated the home button and added edge-to-edge screens.

AP

Apple CEO Tim Cook announces the new iPhone X at the Steve Jobs Theater on the new Apple campus, Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2017, in Cupertino, Calif.

Apple shares were mostly flat after the announcement, down 64 cents to $160.86.

STEVE JOBS HOMAGE

This was the first product event for Apple at its new spaceship-like headquarters in Cupertino, California. Before getting to the new iPhone, the company unveiled a new Apple Watch model with cellular service and an updated version of its Apple TV streaming device.

The event opened in a darkened auditorium, with only the audience's phones gleaming like stars, along with a message that said "Welcome to Steve Jobs Theater." A voiceover from Jobs, Apple's co-founder who died in 2011, opened the event before CEO Tim Cook took stage.

"Not a day that goes by that we don't think about him," Cook said. "Memories especially come rushing back as we prepared for today and this event. It's taken some time but we can now reflect on him with joy instead of sadness."

The iPhone X costs twice what the original iPhone did. It sets a new price threshold for any smartphone intended to appeal to a mass market.

'WHAT APPLE DOES BEST'

Gartner analyst Brian Blau said the iPhone X's augmented reality features will "change the way people use apps" and give app developers new, "cool things" to do. Apple showed off a simple use for this new, sophisticated camera technology with "animoji," which lets people animate emoji characters with their facial expressions. Showing off a new technology with something that everyday people can use and understand, he said, is "what Apple does best."

Blau also praised the extended battery life for the phone, saying "you don't often get that" with new smartphones.

Other analysts such as Carolina Milanesi, an analyst with Creative Strategies, don't believe the $1,000 price tag will present much of a hurdle to Apple buyers, at least to those with means or access to installment plans. And people who won't spend that kind of money, she added, have a choice of other products that will keep them "within Apple versus looking at the competition."

NEW WATCH

Apple's latest Watch has built-in cellular service. The number on your phone will be the same as your iPhone. The Series 3 model will also have Apple Music available through cellular service. It won't need a new plan, but will require a data add-on to your existing plan.

"Now, you can go for a run with just your watch," said Jeff Williams, Apple's chief operating officer and in charge of Watch development.

Apple is also adding more fitness features to the Watch, and says it is now the most used heartrate monitor in the world. Now, Apple Watch will notify users when it detects an elevated heart rate when they don't appear to be active. It'll also detect abnormal heart rhythms.

The Series 3 will start at $399. One without cellular goes for $329, down from $369 for the comparable model now. The original Series 1, without GPS, sells for $249, down from $269. The new watch comes out Sept. 22.

Cellular plans for smartwatches typically cost $5 to $10 a month. AT&T says its plans are $10 a month. T-Mobile said the Watch connection will be free for the first three months and $10 a month after for unlimited talk, text and data.

Hurricane Irma delivers serious punch to Florida agriculture

Florida fruit growers and farmers have just barely begun to assess the damage Hurricane Irma wrought on the state's citrus, sugar cane and vegetable crops—but they expect it will be significant.

With power and communications still out across much of Florida, officials said Tuesday that getting a full picture will take weeks. What remains unknown: Exactly how much damage the crops suffered, how much producers might recover from crop insurance, and how much more people might pay for their morning orange juice.

"Irma went right up the middle. It didn't matter where you were, because Irma was so wide," said Mark Hudson, the Florida state statistician with the National Agricultural Statistics Service. Extension and Farm Service Agency agents have just started evaluating the losses, he said, "if they can get fuel and if they can get out."

Florida's orange harvest usually begins around Thanksgiving, and about 90 percent of it becomes juice. Projections for the 2016-2017 growing season had called for 68.5 million boxes of oranges and 7.8 million boxes of grapefruit. The orange crop was worth over $886 million, according to USDA figures, while the grapefruit crop was worth nearly $110 million.

"Before Hurricane Irma, there was a good chance we would have more than 75 million boxes of oranges on the trees this season, we now have much less," said Shannon Stepp, executive director of the Florida Department of Citrus. Initial reports indicate Irma's winds knocked lot of fruit to the ground but uprooted relatively few trees, which will help growers in the long term.

Lisa Lochridge, a spokeswoman for the Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association, said reports indicate a 50 percent to 70 percent crop loss in South Florida, depending on the region, with losses "only slightly less going north." Joel Widenor, co-founder of Commodity Weather Group, forecast the overall orange crop loss at 10 percent and the grapefruit loss at 20 percent to 30 percent. He estimated sugar cane losses at 10 percent.

The sugar cane harvest was expected to begin Oct. 1. Producers had anticipated a "very good" crop of around 2.1 million tons, said Ryan Weston, CEO of the Florida Sugar Cane League. Aerial observations this week should start showing how much was knocked down, he said.

Florida is a key source of fresh fruits and vegetables for the rest of the country in the winter. In many cases those crops aren't in the ground yet, or it's early enough to replant. But particularly for tomatoes and strawberries, Lochridge said, some fields about to be planted were damaged. So she said the tomato crop is expected to be light in early November, though officials expect a solid December. Strawberry growers expect to recover quickly and harvest on time, she said.

Senate GOP struggles with deficit in work on budget, taxes

WASHINGTON (AP)—Senate Republicans are struggling with how many billions of dollars President Donald Trump's tax code overhaul will add to the deficit as they work on a GOP budget plan that's a prerequisite to any far-reaching change in the nation's tax system.

Trump had dinner Tuesday with a group of Republican and Democratic senators to talk taxes, after Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and GOP members of the Budget Committee met with two top Trump administration officials to make progress on forging the budget plan, which is required to stave off potential Democratic blocking tactics and pass the subsequent tax bill with just GOP votes.

The as-yet-undrafted bill to overhaul the tax code is the top priority for Trump and Republicans after the collapse of their effort to dismantle Barack Obama's health care law. Trump's top economic adviser, Gary Cohn, and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin met with McConnell, R-Ky., and budget panel members.

"From my standpoint, let's set ourselves up for success on tax reform," Sen. Ron Johnson, R-Wis., a member of the committee, said before the meeting.

The meeting ended in late afternoon without specific proposed numbers for the size of the budget coming forward. Not wanting to show disappointment, participants stressed that it was intended to be preliminary.

Finance Committee Chairman Sen. Orrin Hatch said afterward that the group, which discussed the broad outlines of the deficit trade-off for a new tax bill, had not reached an agreement. Hatch, R-Utah, said he expected more information to come soon.

Mnuchin signaled ahead of the meeting that the administration would be open to changes sought by lawmakers to improve the chances for passage of a tax overhaul this year. In an interview with CNBC, Mnuchin also said the administration would "absolutely" consider making tax cuts retroactive to the start of this year if overhaul legislation didn't pass until 2018.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

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DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
22,118.86	2,496.48	6,454.28
+61.49	+8.37	+22.02
0.28%	0.34%	0.34%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.2463	Hong Kong Dollar	7.8108	Russian Ruble	57.5456
British Pound	0.7518	Indian Rupee	63.5094	Singapore Dollar	1.3459
Canadian Dollar	1.0084	Japanese Yen	110.1170	South Korean Won	1101.9
Chinese Yuan	1.2166	Malaysian Ringgit	4.1548	Swiss Franc	0.9590
Euro	0.8350	New Zealand Dollar	1.3727	Taiwan Dollar	29.4397
		Philippine Peso	49.9108	Thailand Baht	33.0375

Nation

FEMA estimates 25 percent of Florida Keys homes are gone

LOWER MATECUMBE KEY, Fla. (AP)—With 25 percent of the homes in the Florida Keys feared destroyed, emergency workers Tuesday rushed to find Hurricane Irma's victims—dead or alive—and deliver food and water to the stricken island chain.

As crews labored to repair the lone highway connecting the Keys, residents of some of the islands closest to Florida's mainland were allowed to return and get their first look at the devastation.

"It's going to be pretty hard for those coming home," said Petrona Hernandez, whose concrete home on Plantation Key with 35-foot walls was unscathed, unlike others a few blocks away. "It's going to be devastating to them."

But because of disrupted phone service and other damage, the full extent of the destruction was still a question mark, more than two days after Irma roared into the Keys with 130 mph (209 kph) winds.

AP

The Keys Please boat sits on the seawall along a canal in a community on Cudjoe Key, Fla., Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2017.

Elsewhere in Florida, life inched closer to normal, with some flights again taking off, many curfews lifted and major theme parks reopening. Cruise ships that extended their voyages and rode out the storm at sea began returning to port with thousands of passengers.

The number of people without electricity in the steamy late-summer heat dropped to 9.5 million - just under half of Florida's population. Utility officials warned it could take 10 days or more for power to be fully restored. About 110,000 people remained in shelters across Florida.

The number of deaths blamed on Irma in Florida climbed to 12, in addition to four in South Carolina and two in Georgia. At least 37 people were killed in the Caribbean.

"We've got a lot of work to do, but everybody's going to come together," Florida Gov. Rick Scott said. "We're going to get this state rebuilt."

In hard-hit Naples, on Florida's southwest coast, more than 300 people stood outside a Publix grocery store in the morning, waiting for it to open.

A manager came to the store's sliding door with occasional progress reports. Once he said that workers were throwing out produce that had gone bad; another time, that they were trying to get the cash registers working.

One man complained loudly that the line had too many gaps. Others shook their heads in frustration at word of another delay.

At the front of the line after a more than two-hour wait, Phill Chirchirillo, 57, said days without electricity and other basics were beginning to wear on people.

"At first it's like, 'We're safe, thank God.' Now they're testy," he said. "The order of the day is to keep people calm."

Irma's rainy remnants, meanwhile, pushed through Alabama and Mississippi after drenching Georgia. Flash-flood watches and warnings were issued across the Southeast.

While nearly all of Florida was engulfed by the 400-mile-wide (645-kilometer) storm, the Keys—home to about 70,000 people—appeared to be the hardest hit. Drinking water and power were cut off, all three of the islands' hospitals were closed, and the supply of gasoline was extremely limited.

Search-and-rescue teams made their way into the more distant reaches of the Keys, and an aircraft carrier was positioned off Key West to help. Officials said it was not known how many people ignored evacuation orders and stayed behind in the Keys.

Monroe County began setting up shelters and food-and-water distribution points for Irma's victims in the Keys.

Crews also worked to repair two washed-out, 300-foot (90-meter) sections of U.S. 1, the highway that runs through the Keys, and check the safety of the 42 bridges linking the islands.

Federal Emergency Management Agency administrator Brock Long said preliminary estimates suggested that 25 percent of the homes in the Keys were destroyed and 65 percent sustained major damage.

"Basically, every house in the Keys was impacted," he said.

In Islamorada, a trailer park was devastated, the homes ripped apart as if by a giant claw. A sewage-like stench hung over the place.

Justices allow Trump administration ban on most refugees

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Supreme Court is allowing the Trump administration to maintain its restrictive policy on refugees.

The justices on Tuesday agreed to an administration request to block a lower court ruling that would have eased the refugee ban and allowed up to 24,000 refugees to enter the country before the end of October.

The order was not the court's last word on the travel policy that President Donald Trump first rolled out in January. The justices are scheduled to hear arguments on Oct. 10 on the legality of the bans on travelers from six mostly Muslim countries and refugees anywhere in the world.

It's unclear, though, what will be left for the court to decide. The 90-day travel ban lapses in late September and the 120-day refugee ban will expire a month later.

White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Tuesday night: "We are pleased that the Supreme Court has allowed key components of the order to remain in effect. We will continue to vigorously defend the order leading up to next month's oral argument in the Supreme Court."

The administration has yet to say whether it will seek to renew the bans, make them permanent or expand the travel ban to other countries.

Lower courts have ruled that the bans violate the Constitution and federal immigration law. The high court has agreed to review those rulings. Its intervention so far has been to evaluate what parts of the policy can take effect in the meantime.

The justices said in June that the administration could not enforce the bans against people who have a "bona fide" relationship with people or entities in the United States. The justices declined to define the required relationships more precisely.

A panel of the San Francisco-based 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a district judge's order that would have allowed refugees to enter the United States if a resettlement agency in the U.S. had agreed to take them in.

The administration objected, saying the relationship between refugees and resettlement agencies shouldn't count. The high court's unsigned, one-sentence order agreed with the administration, at least for now.

The appeals court also upheld another part of the judge's ruling that applies to the ban on visitors from Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen.

Grandparents and cousins of people already in the U.S. can't be excluded from the country under the travel ban, as the Trump administration had wanted. The administration did not ask the Supreme Court to block that part of the ruling.

Fifth man's charges of abuse lead Seattle mayor to resign

SEATTLE (AP)—Seattle Mayor Ed Murray, beset over the past five months by sex abuse allegations, is set to resign, bringing an ignoble end to a lengthy political career in which he championed gay rights and better pay for workers.

His announcement that he plans to resign came after *The Seattle Times* reported that a fifth man—one of his cousins—had accused Murray of molesting him decades ago. Though he has vehemently denied all of the accusations against him, Murray, a Democrat, had already decided not to seek re-election.

"While the allegations against me are not true, it is important that my personal issues do not affect the ability of our city government to conduct the public's business," he said in a statement Tuesday.

He apologized to his staff and to the city for "this painful situation," and said it had become clear that his resignation was best for the city.

The news left the city waiting to hear who would fulfill the remaining months in his term.

The latest allegations came from Joseph Dyer, the son of Murray's first cousin, Maryellen Sottile. Dyer told the newspaper in a story published Tuesday that he was 13 and Murray was in his early 20s when Murray came to live with Dyer's family in Medford, New York, in 1975. The two shared a bedroom, and Murray repeatedly molested him over the course of a year, Dyer said.

"There would be times when I would fake sleeping because I didn't want him touching me," Dyer said.

Dyer said the molestation stopped only after Murray was accused of abuse by a boy in a Catholic group home where Murray worked. Dyer told the newspaper his uncle persuaded the group home not to pursue charges as long as Murray left.

Efforts by The Associated Press to reach Dyer were not immediately successful.

Murray, who is gay, has not faced criminal charges. He denied abusing Dyer and blamed the allegation on resentment between their families.

He initially told the Times he would not resign, but eventually did so as pressure mounted Tuesday.

Former U.S. Attorney Jenny Durkan, who is vying to succeed him, called for Murray to step down and removed his endorsement from her campaign website. Her rival, urban planner Cary Moon, reiterated her own call for Murray's resignation, which she first made months ago.

"Mayor Murray is doing the right thing by stepping down," Gov. Jay Inslee said in a statement. "He has done good things for Seattle and his resignation will allow the city to move forward."

City Council President Bruce Harrell will become mayor upon Murray's resignation and has five days to decide whether to fill out the remainder of his term. If he declines, the council would appoint someone else, possibly Councilman Tim Burgess, who is retiring this year.

Asia

S. Korea conducts cruise missile drill amid North Korea threats

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea said Wednesday it conducted its first live-fire drill for an advanced air-launched cruise missile it says will strengthen its pre-emptive strike capability against North Korea in the event of crisis.

South Korea's military said the Taurus missile fired from an F-15 fighter jet traveled through obstacles at low altitudes before hitting a target off the country's western coast.

The missile, manufactured by Germany's Taurus Systems, has a maximum range of 500 kilometers (310 miles) and is equipped with stealth characteristics that will allow it to avoid radar detection before hitting North Korean targets, according to Seoul's Defense Ministry.

South Korea has been accelerating efforts to ramp up its military capabilities in face of a torrent of nuclear weapons tests by North Korea, which on Sept. 3 conducted its sixth and most powerful nuclear test to date.

North Korea sanctions
The 15-member UN Security Council unanimously approved its toughest sanctions yet against North Korea:
Reducing the export of oil into North Korea by 30 percent.
A ban on exports of textiles, a source of $800 million in revenue. Curbing access to natural gas and subjecting the country's ships and cargo to closer inspection.
A ban on UN member states from issuing work authorizations of North Koreans overseas, a source of $500 million in tax revenue.
Source: AP
Graphic: Staff, TNS

Shortly after the nuke test, Seoul announced it reached an agreement with Washington to remove the warhead weight limits on South Korean ballistic missiles, which under a bilateral guideline could be built for a maximum range of 800 kilometers (497 miles).

A pre-emptive strike against Pyongyang's leadership would be difficult to undertake, but it's widely seen as the most realistic of the limited military options Seoul has to deny a nuclear attack from its rival.

The North said its latest nuclear test was a detonation of a thermonuclear weapon built for its developmental intercontinental ballistic missiles that were flight tested twice in July. The country is also developing solid-fuel missiles that could be fired from land mobile launchers or submarines. It flew a powerful new midrange missile over northern Japan last month while declaring more missile tests targeting the Pacific Ocean.

Bangladesh leader visits Rohingya refugees, assures help

UKHIYA, Bangladesh (AP)—Bangladesh's leader demanded that Myanmar allow the return of hundreds of thousands of Rohingya Muslims who fled recent violence in the Buddhist-majority nation—a crisis she said left her speechless.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said Bangladesh would offer the refugees temporary shelter and aid, but that Myanmar should soon "take their nationals back."

"We will not tolerate injustice," she said Tuesday at the Kutupalong refugee camp, near the border town of Ukhiya in Cox's Bazar district.

At least 370,000 Rohingya have flooded into Bangladesh since Aug. 25, when Myanmar's military responded to a major insurgent attack with what it called "clearance operations" to root out the rebels. Many of the fleeing Rohingya have said Myanmar soldiers shot indiscriminately, burned their homes and warned them to leave or die. Others said they were attacked by Buddhist mobs.

The crisis has drawn sharp criticism of Myanmar's government and its leader, Nobel Peace Prize recipient Aung San Suu Kyi. On Tuesday, Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei called the killing of Muslims a political disaster and called Suu Kyi a "brutal woman." U.N. human rights chief Zeid Ra'ad al-Hussein said the Rohingya were victims of what "seems a textbook example of ethnic cleansing."

Two human rights groups on Tuesday accused the U.N. Security Council of ignoring the crisis. Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International spoke at U.N. headquarters ahead of closed council discussions Wednesday about the Myanmar situation.

Louis Charbonneau, the U.N. director for Human Rights Watch, said, "This is an international peace and security crisis" and there is no excuse for the Security Council "sitting on its hands."

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the world's largest Muslim body, is urging Myanmar to allow in U.N. monitors so they can investigate what it alleges is systematic brutality against the Rohingya. The U.N. Human Rights Council approved an investigative mission earlier this year, but Myanmar in June refused to allow it to enter. An envoy's visit in July was met with protests.

In Myanmar, a Rohingya man said security forces arrived Monday in the village of Pa Din, firing guns, setting new fires to homes and driving out hundreds of Rohingya. "People were scared and running out of the village," the villager said, speaking on condition of anonymity out of fear for his safety.

Myanmar police, however, said the houses were burned by terrorists they called Bengalis, a term used derisively in Myanmar against Rohingya.

Myanmar's military said Rohingya villagers helped them arrest six suspected insurgents armed with swords and slingshots on Monday. The military commander in chief's office posted on Facebook that the six were detained as they entered Ka Nyin Tan village in Maungdaw township.

In Bangladesh, Kutupalong and another existing Rohingya camp were already beyond capacity. Bangladesh has said it would provide 2,000 acres (810 hectares) for a new camp in Cox's Bazar district to help shelter new arrivals. Some were staying in schools or huddling in makeshift settlements along roads and in open fields. Basic resources were scarce, including food, clean water and medical aid.

Aid agencies have been overwhelmed by the influx of Rohingya, many of whom are arriving hungry and traumatized after walking for days through jungles or being packed into rickety wooden boats in search of safety in Bangladesh.

World

Aleppo still badly scarred by war, months after rebel defeat

ALEPPO, Syria (AP)—"Aleppo is in my eyes," says a billboard depicting President Bashar Assad looking out over two men and a boy repaving the main Saadallah al-Jabiri Square—once a front line in one of the deadliest episodes of the Syrian civil war.

The recapture of eastern Aleppo in December 2016 was a landmark victory for Assad's forces in the conflict, now in its seventh year, but it left the area in ruins.

Eight months later, neighborhood after neighborhood in the formerly rebel-held sector still look like ghost towns. Only rarely is a family seen sitting on white plastic chairs outside the rubble.

Life is slowly returning to the desolate streets where shop signs are covered with dust, where men hawk cigarettes on a street corner and teenagers sell bananas off a picnic table.

Rami Abdurrahman, director of the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, says thousands of people have returned to their homes in Aleppo—once Syria's largest city—from camps for the displaced.

Russian troops mediating between the Syrian government and various opposition factions have helped. The task force's chief in the province, Maj. Gen. Igor Yemelyanov, said it has helped 3,500 people return to nearby villages.

Although Syrian government-controlled neighborhoods did not see the destruction and loss of life on a scale comparable to what eastern Aleppo endured, the seemingly quiet neighborhoods in the west also bear the scars of conflict.

The third floor of a school in southwestern Aleppo still has no glass after its window was blown out when a missile landed in a classroom in November 2016. Two students were killed in the classroom, and four died in a playground under the windows, principal Nakhlya Deri told reporters Tuesday during a visit arranged by the Russian Defense Ministry.

Residents have been resilient throughout, Deri insisted, describing how the school kept operating.

"After the attack, we closed down. On the following day, we cleared out the debris; and on the third day we started working," she said.

Even though the siege of Aleppo ended eight months ago, municipal services fully restored the electricity supply only last week, said provincial Gov. Hamied Kenno.

Most of the city's power plants were in eastern Aleppo, which was captured by rebels in 2012 and suffered catastrophic destruction during the battle to recapture it. For weeks after the fighting ended, electricity was cut off across the entire city, even in government-held neighborhood.

Moscow intervened in Syria two years ago to help Assad, its longtime ally. On Tuesday, the Russia military said Syrian troops have liberated about 85 percent of the country's territory from militants.

Russian warplanes have changed the tide of the war, giving Syrian troops and allied forces an advantage over opposition fighters and militants from the Islamic State group.

Speaking to reporters at the Hemeimeem air base in Syria's Latakia province, Lt. Gen. Alexander Lapin said the Syrian government still must clear the militants from the remaining 15 percent—approximately 27,000 square kilometers (10,425 square miles).

Europe leaders answer anger over Irma response in Caribbean

MARIGOT, St. Martin (AP)—Wrapping up a sweeping visit to the destroyed island of St. Martin, France's president responded to anger that his government didn't do enough to handle Hurricane Irma's wrath and promised to evacuate residents of his country's Caribbean territories and provide services and shelter for those who choose to stay.

French President Emmanuel Macron outlined a plan to distribute drinking water, food and medical help using the islands' radio stations and even megaphones, if necessary. He also said about half of the island's mobile connectivity had been restored and all "essential communication" would be back by next week.

"What we have seen today are people determined to rebuild and return to a normal life," he said Tuesday in a press conference. "They are impatient for answers and some are very, very angry. The anger is legitimate because it is a result of the fear they have faced and of being very fatigued. It is certain that some want to leave, and we will help them in that effort."

He said France was bringing in air-conditioned tents so children can start classes again soon, and he said a center would be established by Monday to begin processing requests for financial help.

Macron pledged to rebuild St. Martin as a "model" for withstanding future storms.

"I don't want to rebuild St. Martin as it was," he said. "We have seen there are many homes that were built too precariously, with fragile infrastructure. The geography of the homes was not adapted to the risks."

Macron said the Category 5 hurricane killed 11 people in St. Martin, while another four people died on the Dutch side of the island, bringing the death toll in the Caribbean to at least 37.

The visit came as residents tried to revive a sense of normalcy with small gestures like sharing radios and rescuing dogs.

The Dutch Red Cross said more than 200 people were still listed as missing on St. Maarten, but with communications extremely spotty a week after the storm hit, it wasn't clear how many were simply without cell service and power and unable to let friends and family know they survived. The organization said 90 percent of buildings on the Dutch territory were damaged and a third destroyed as Irma roared across the island it shares with French St. Martin.

Yogesh Bodha, a jewelry store employee, said there was no response from European officials for two days and he hasn't seen many changes since Dutch authorities arrived on St. Maarten.

"They should've been more organized than they were," he said. "We have not received any food or water. They say it's on its way. Let's see."

For Liseth Echevarría, who works as a bartender in St. Maarten, offering whatever she could to family, strangers and abandoned pets was helping her cope — and those around her were doing the same.

Environment

NORTHWEST FORESTS will get more and bigger wildfires with climate change

TNS

An early evening view from Washington side of the Columbia Gorge of Eagle Creek fire spreading over ridges on Oregon side of gorge, on September 4, 2017.

By HAL BERNTON
SEATTLE TIMES

BEACON ROCK STATE PARK, Wash.—As night fell last Monday in the Columbia River Gorge, the Oregon slopes burned as if carpet-bombed from above. Winds acted like bellows in a hearth to supercharge the flames spread by embers flying from ridge to ridge. Stands of trees that matured over decades — sometimes centuries — were engulfed within minutes.

The Eagle Creek wildfire is a dramatic reminder that the forests of Western Oregon and Washington, so often cloaked in snow or drenched by rain, have a cycle of fire and renewal. When conditions are right, they can burn in spectacular fashion just like the more arid landscapes east of the Cascades.

The fires are less frequent than in drier forests, but the burn cycles are not etched in stone. They reflect a climate that scientists forecast to undergo big changes in the decades ahead as global combustion of fossil fuels warms the Earth. In the Pacific Northwest, climate models indicate that average summer temperatures will warm later in this century by 4.7 degrees to 6.5 degrees compared with the last half of the 20th century.

The warming is likely to shorten the burn cycles in the Puget Sound region as well as other parts of Western Washington and Western Oregon.

"We expect to see more fires and bigger fires," said Amy Snover, director of the Climate Impacts Group at the University of Washington. "People are just beginning to wake up to this, but public lands managers do think about this and the potential risks."

Those risks likely will include more smoke hanging around Western Washington and Oregon, and more fire threats to west-side communities, where many homeowners have yet to consider removing close-by trees and brush to create defensible spaces should flames threaten their land.

This year, the smoke is the result of fires that have burned around the Pacific Northwest, including more than 732,000 acres in Washington and Oregon. Significant fires have flared west of the Cascades, including the Eagle Creek fire that has burned more than 32,000 acres, and threatened small communities outside of Portland.

If the models analyzed by the University of Washington are accurate, this Pacific Northwest summer could be a mild preview for the kind of heat we are likely to routinely experience later in the century. The three months that ended in August ranked as the third-hottest Pacific Northwest summer on record. Yet, they fall on the low end of what is forecast in the last half of this century, Snover said.

That additional heat would make the forests more vulnerable to fire. Two studies cited by the Climate Impacts Group estimate that the average acreage burned in a year west of the Cascades at the end of this century would be double the average burned during the last half of the 20th century.

Fire ecologists who study the history of the region note earlier periods of intense fire activity in the west-side forests.

The Olympic Peninsula, for example, had a series of fires that burned more than 1 million acres over 33 years in the 1700s, according to research that looked at tree rings and fire scars.

The September 1902 Yacolt Burn raged across more than 230,000 acres, spreading largely through Western Washington forests north of the Columbia River Gorge. That was a fearsome fire even for residents from Seattle who were hit with what The Seattle Times reported as "great banks of smoke clouds" that drifted over the city, blotted out the sun and "floated through the streets of the city like an awful quiet harbinger of approaching doom."

Prolonged summer heat is a key ingredient for such big fire seasons, and the Climate Impacts Group forecasts that predict the 21st century warming are based on an analysis of more than three dozen climate models with different projections.

Researchers then develop an average annual temperature based on a scenario that assumes aggressive efforts to reduce fossil-fuel emissions. They also include scenarios with the use of petroleum, coal and natural gas continuing roughly at current levels.

The models project that the summer heat will come with less rain, further drying out the forests.

This year a dry, hot August primed west-side forests to burn. Forest Service officials, since 1990, have estimated the moisture content of large dead trees on the ground. By the end of August, those estimates indicated they were potent fuel for fires, said John Saltenberger, fire weather program manager for the Portland-based Northwest Interagency Coordination Center.

"All across the Northwest, they were either at — or exceeding — the lowest values on record, especially on the west side," Saltenberger said.

Wildfires don't happen without a source of ignition. People often provide that first flame, particularly in west-side forests where lightning is less common than east of the Cascades.

Oregon State Police say a 15-year-old boy from Vancouver, Wash., is suspected of starting the Sept. 2 fire in the Columbia River Gorge, but he has not been charged. He allegedly tossed a firework while on a trail along Eagle Creek, a steep side canyon near Bonneville Dam that included old-growth Douglas fir, cedar and other softwoods.

More than 150 hikers were trapped until Sunday, when they could be safely evacuated. The fire blew up Monday afternoon, as temperatures climbed past 90 degrees, humidity dropped and winds from the east roared through the Gorge with gusts as high as 55 mph.

In 16 hours, the fire marched some 12 miles to the west, moving through the heart of one of the most popular hiking areas in the Portland area.

As trees ignited, fiery red avalanches of flames snaked along the Gorge's steep flanks. Some embers flew north across the Columbia River to Washington, and set off a new fire near the town of Skamania.

"That fire made a historic run. It's fire behavior we haven't seen in this area for a long time," said Jim Trammell, fire-defense chief for Hood River County in Oregon.

In recent days, there has been an outpouring of grief over what was lost, as well as anger at the act that touched off the fire.

As the weather eased, the fire — while far from contained — grew calmer.

Along the Oregon side of the Gorge, it was possible to take a closer look. You could see how the fire — despite its ferocity — burned unevenly. In some areas, once-green forests turned into patches of dead snags. Elsewhere, the flames laid low and crept along the forest floor.

Scientists remind us that such fires help to bring about new life, and remain an essential part of the forest ecology. Berry plants, for example, will flourish in newly opened areas and provide food for wildlife. Seedlings will emerge.

"Even in the areas of the most intense burn, it is not an end, but a beginning, when you understand the processes that are at work," said Dominick DellaSala, chief scientist for the Geos Institute, of Ashland, Ore., and co-author of a book that focuses on the ecological importance of forest fires.

Scientists still are uncertain just how the west-side forests will evolve in a century with more frequent fires.

Some studies predict that forests will contain less wood, and thus store less carbon, according to the Climate Impacts Group. That's largely due to the forecasts that more will burn, as well as greater impacts from disease and insects, according to Snover.

The mix of trees may change.

Some species, such as hemlock and cedar, have thin bark and readily succumb to fire. So they may find themselves in retreat. Other species, such as Douglas fir, have thicker bark and are far more resilient to fire and regenerate in direct sunlight. They are likely to fare better.

"I fully expect, with climate change, some shifts in vegetation to occur," said Jane Kertis, a U.S. Forest Service scientist based in Corvallis, Ore. "Fire is laying bare the conditions for that to begin."

Life & Style

J.J. Abrams to write and direct 'Star Wars: Episode IX'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—J.J. Abrams is returning to "Star Wars," and will replace Colin Trevorrow as writer and director of "Episode IX," pushing the film's release date back seven months.

Disney announced Abrams return on Tuesday a week after news broke of Trevorrow's departure. After several high-profile exits by previous "Star Wars" directors, Lucasfilm is turning to the filmmaker who helped resurrect the franchise in the first place. Abrams will co-write the film with screenwriter Chris Terrio, who won an Oscar for adapting "Argo," and also co-wrote "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice."

Abrams

As the director of "The Force Awakens," Abrams rebooted "Star Wars" to largely glowing reviews from fans and more than $2 billion in box office. Abrams had said that would be his only film for the franchise, but he's now been pulled back in.

Lucasfilm President Kathleen Kennedy said that Abrams "delivered everything we could have possibly hoped for" on "The Force Awakens" and added "I am so excited that he is coming back to close out this trilogy."

This move also means Abrams will be the only director aside from "Star Wars" creator George Lucas to direct more than one "Star Wars" film.

"Star Wars: Episode IX" was originally slated to hit theaters in May 2019, but in the wake of the shift has officially been pushed back to a Dec. 20, 2019 release. It is the final installment in the new "main" Star Wars trilogy that began with Abrams' "The Force Awakens" in 2015 and will continue this December with director Rian Johnson's "The Last Jedi."

Lucasfilm has had a number of public fallouts with "Star Wars" directors over the past few years.

Earlier this year the young Han Solo spinoff film parted ways with director Phil Lord and Christopher Miller and swiftly replaced them with Ron Howard deep into production. In 2015, the company fired director Josh Trank from work on another Star Wars spinoff. And extensive reshoots on "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story" led to widespread speculation that director Gareth Edwards had been unofficially sidelined by Tony Gilroy.

News of Abrams' return was greeted warmly by fans on social media Tuesday. He hasn't directed or committing to directing another project since "The Force Awakens," and instead had been focused on producing.

In this image released by ABC, Randall Park, left, and Constance Wu appear in a scene from the new comedy series "Fresh Off the Boat."
AP

After brief hiatus, Michelle Pfeiffer returns in 'mother!'

NEW YORK (AP)—When Michelle Pfeiffer first read Darren Aronofsky's script for "mother!" she had an understandable initial reaction.

"I thought: What the hell is this?" recalls Pfeiffer.

Aronofsky's film is not in any way typical, nor is the kind of project you'd expect a long-absent actress like Pfeiffer to join as her first big-screen performance in five years. The film, intentionally shrouded in mystery, is a wild and weird odyssey by one of the movies' expert conjurers of dark, surreal dream worlds that suspend its viewers - and often its performers, too - in a vividly atmospheric state of paranoia.

"You don't even know, really, how to talk about it," says Pfeiffer, as if throwing up her hands, in a recent interview.

But one of the many mysteries worth pondering in Darren Aronofsky's allegorical thriller is a simple one: Why don't we see Pfeiffer more often? The good news is that "mother!" represents the start of what may be a kind of renaissance for the 59-year-old actress, whose steely beauty and cool, piercing intelligence remains just as devastating.

"I'm really excited to be back," says Pfeiffer. "Especially having worked with these exciting actors and these directors who I so admire. The most exciting for me is all of these really talented people that I'm able to do movies with."

Study finds Asian-American characters 'token' on TV

LOS ANGELES (AP)—TV's Asian-American characters are so frequently slighted that even programs set in the biggest, most diverse cities leave them out of the picture, a new study found.

For "Tokens on the Small Screen," professors and scholars at six California universities looked at 242 broadcast, cable and digital platform shows that aired during the 2015-16 season and tallied the numbers, screen time and portrayals of characters of Asian or Pacific Islander descent among 2,000 TV characters.

The report released Tuesday, a follow-up to broadcast TV studies done in 2005 and 2006, found increasing opportunities for Asian-American actors but concluded they are still underrepresented and "their characters remain marginalized and tokenized on screen."

There was a sense of optimism with the emergence of ABC's "Fresh Off the Boat" and "Dr. Ken" and Netflix's "Master of None," all starring and focused on Asian-Americans, said Nancy Wang Yuen, a Biola University associate professor and one of the study's authors.

"It felt like, 'Oh, we're finally making it,'" Yuen said in an interview. "But even ("Dr. Ken" star) Ken Jeong said, "Of this many shows, we only have three?"'

The cancellations of Jeong's sitcom and the Netflix historical drama "Marco Polo," which featured a hefty number of Asian characters, showed how tenuous the hold on representation is, the study said.

A third (34.5 percent) of all Asian or Asian-American characters were found to be on just 11 shows—with the 14 characters on "Marco Polo" alone making up 10 percent of the total—which sets up a "risk of greater decimation when networks decide to cancel even one show," according to the report.

The concentration of characters on a few shows also means that many viewers never see an Asian-American on screen, which the study says "effectively erases" them from a large part of the TV landscape.

There are 155 shows that lack a single Asian-American character, including 63 of broadcast and basic cable series and 74 percent of premium cable shows, the study found.

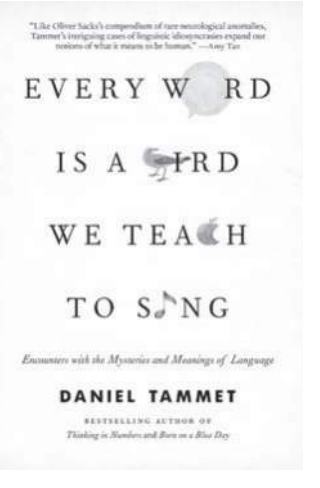
The exclusion is startling on shows set in urban areas. Among all New York-based shows, which has an Asian-American population of 13 percent, 70 percent of shows lacked a single series regular of that ethnicity. More than 50 percent of shows set in Los Angeles, with a population that's 14 percent Asian, lacked any such characters.

Tammet takes readers on thought-provoking tour of words

By CHRISTINA LEDBETTER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Daniel Tammet's understanding of language began with numbers. When he saw white flakes falling from the sky, though he pointed out the window and exclaimed "Snow" to his parents, his mind latched onto the number 89. But while numbers ruled his thoughts, eventually words—rich, buoyant, pliable words—edged their way into his fascination, triggering a ferocious zeal for languages.

In his collection of essays, "Every Word Is a Bird We Teach to Sing," Tammet takes readers on a cerebral jaunt though spoken, printed, championed and neglected words. In one essay, he burrows into the origins of Esperanto, roams through the history and expounds upon its current state, all with poetic prose. In another, a sign-language user coaxes the author's hands into



meaning. Dictionary bosses in France explain the nuances of allowing this definition or that one onto pages, and from those who study the telephone, we learn why answering "Hello" bested "Ahoy" regarding the proper fashion to answer a call.

Tammet explores some cultures' efforts to preserve nearly forgotten vocabularies, providing a snapshot of a language's possible final moments, when the last handful of elders maintain only a rusty collection of phrases held over from childhood. Later, a missionary recounts the complexity of translating Jesus' teachings of sowing and seeds for the 4,000 Amanab speakers in a remote village of Papua New Guinea who possess no word for plow. Each essay quaintly reveals intricacies embedded in the way humans communicate, from parents in Iceland grappling with authorities over what they can name their daughter to the African writer fighting for youth to read in their mother tongues.

Through Tammet's beautifully written explanations of the way his mind comprehends words (many words—the author speaks 11 languages), readers may discover trapdoors flinging open in their own brains, revealing head-cocking perspectives on how to get one's point across.

Hillary Clinton signs copies of new book at NYC bookstore

NEW YORK (AP)—Hundreds of people crowded into a bookstore on Tuesday to see Hillary Clinton as she promoted her new book on the day of its official release.

The former Democratic presidential nominee was introducing her book about the 2016 presidential campaign in which she lashes out at President Donald Trump as "a clear and present danger to the country and the world."

Clinton didn't offer any public remarks as signed copies of "What Happened" for several hundred supporters inside a Barnes & Noble store in lower Manhattan. But Trump spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders fired back from the White House briefing room when asked about Clinton's new book.

"I think it's sad that after Hillary Clinton ran one of the most negative campaigns in history and lost and the last chapter of her public life is going to be now defined by propping up book sales with false and reckless attacks," Sanders said. "And I think that that's a sad way for her to continue."

The New York City crowd, however, greeted Clinton with a massive cheer. Some waited in line for more than five hours to see her.

A Barnes & Noble spokesman said the store sold 1,200 copies of the book related to Tuesday's appearance. That's more than Clinton sold when she appeared there to promote her last book in 2014.

In the book, Clinton is unsparing in her assessment of the president. She says she considered saying to Trump, "Back up, you creep. Get away from me," when he loomed over her shoulder during a presidential debate.

But Clinton, who has a reputation for deflecting blame for her failures, also said she takes "responsibility for all" her campaign's mistakes.

Chainsmokers' Alex Pall sorry for comment about China

One half of the pop-electronic duo The Chainsmokers has apologized for saying he wouldn't bring his dog to China.

Buzzfeed News reports that Alex Pall's comment came during what appeared to be a promotional video shared on the duo's Twitter account for their performance in Shanghai last weekend. The video has been deleted, but Buzzfeed posted screengrabs with subtitles of the comments.

Some have accused the group of racism, suggesting Pall was making a joke about Asians eating dogs.

Pall explained on Twitter Monday that he had "read reports about dogs being slaughtered in certain provinces" of China. He says the group would "never intentionally do anything to upset our fans and we apologize if we offended anyone."

The Chainsmokers' song "Closer" topped the Billboard Hot 100 for 12 weeks last year. ***(AP)***

BACK TO TURKEY AP

In this June 22, 2017 file photo a Roman sarcophagus is on display in Geneva. The coffin was discovered by Swiss customs in a warehouse in Geneva in 2010 and will be returned to Turkey. The rare, ancient sarcophagus depicts the 12 labors of Hercules. The sarcophagus sat for years in Geneva's customs-office warehouse before being seized by Swiss customs officials in 2010. Consul Levant Ceri says the hulking relic will eventually be displayed in the Antalya Archaeological Museum. The second-century marble coffin shows scenes like Hercules strangling the Nemean Lion and killing the Hydra. It has been traced to the ancient Roman city of Dokimeion, believed to be in today's Antalya province. Experts believe it is one of only 12 in the world.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Bruno Mars' first TV special to air Nov. 29 on CBS

NEW YORK (AP)—Bruno Mars is getting his own TV special, a first for the Grammy-winning superstar. Atlantic Records and CBS announced Tuesday that "BRUNO MARS: 24K MAGIC LIVE AT THE APOLLO" will air Nov. 29 on CBS. The special was taped at the Apollo Theater in New York's Harlem, and Mars performed on top of the venue's marquee. Mars and his band also taped performances and interactions with New Yorkers throughout the city. The last year has been a massive success for the singer, songwriter and producer. Mars' recent album, "24K Magic," reached double platinum status, while the single "That's What I Like" hit No. 1 on Billboard's Hot 100 and R&B/Hip-Hop songs charts, respectively. The album's first single and title track also reached No. 1 on the R&B charts. Mars will executive produce the special.

Canadian gets jail time for biting girl at Green Day concert

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—A Canadian man who bit a 14-year-old girl on her right breast during a Green Day concert in Portland, Oregon, last month has been sentenced to 30 days in jail. Joel Dauncey of Vancouver pleaded no contest Monday to misdemeanor harassment of a sexual or intimate body part. Court documents say the teen told police she was dancing next to her mother at the Aug. 2 concert when a stranger bit her. She rated the pain as "3" on a 1-10 scale. A woman working at the concert told police that Dauncey had been cut off from buying alcohol. The worker said she witnessed the bite. The 34-year-old man told investigators he does not remember the incident. The Oregonian/OregonLive reports Dauncey made no statement at his sentencing.

Aretha Franklin to perform at Elton John's AIDS gala

NEW YORK (AP)—Aretha Franklin will sing in honor of Elton John before she retires later this year. John announced Tuesday that the Queen of Soul will perform at his annual AIDS charity event on Nov. 7 at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York. This year marks the Elton John AIDS Foundation's 25th year. Former President Bill Clinton, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo and Sharon Stone will pay tribute to John's work as a philanthropist and humanitarian. Franklin said this year that she plans to retire and is working on a new album. The 74-year-old said after retiring she will perform at "some select things." Neil Patrick Harris will host John's charity event, to also feature performances by Grammy and Tony winner Heather Headley and violinist Joshua Bell.

'Last Week Tonight with John Oliver' gets 3-season renewal

NEW YORK (AP)—"Last Week Tonight" is going to last a few years longer. HBO says it has renewed "Last Week Tonight with John Oliver" for three additional seasons. This would carry it through at least 2020, with 30 shows presented each season. The show takes a satirical look at the past week's news, politics and other happenings, as well as addressing broader issues. It debuted in 2014 and is in its fourth season. This year it is nominated for eight prime-time Emmy Awards. In a statement, HBO programming president Casey Bloys spoke of Oliver's "extraordinary genius for rich and intelligent commentary." Oliver responded, "I firmly disagree with everything Casey just said." "Last Week Tonight with John Oliver" airs Sundays at 11 p.m. Eastern.

Pressure from boyfriend spurs teen to question relationship

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 16-year-old girl in a somewhat happy relationship. When I first started dating my boyfriend, he was all about it, as was I. But now it seems like he's only interested in sex. He's always asking me to send him videos and pictures of myself nude, and I just keep telling him I'm not ready for anything like that. I also don't think he is understanding my comfort zone about the topic of us having sex.

I have told my friends. They say I'm in an unhealthy relationship because he might pressure me into something I don't want to do. So now, I'm debating whether or not to break up with him. Do you think I should stay with him or break up with him?

TEEN IN EDMONTON, CANADA

DEAR TEEN: Your friends are right. This romance doesn't appear to be headed anywhere healthy.

Naked pictures are considered pornographic and could get you and that young man in serious trouble. Surely you are aware that once something gets on the internet, it's in the public domain forever. Once you have sent your boyfriend the pictures, they could wind up passed around and viewed by everyone at your school.

Your resolve not to have sex may be rock solid, but even granite can eventually be eroded by a constant drip of water. Don't think for one moment he doesn't understand how you feel about not having sex with him. If he cared about your comfort zone, he would stop bringing the subject up and trying to wear you down. Because he persists, you should break up with him.

DEAR ABBY: I have been divorced for eight years and have a wonderful, kindhearted 13-year-old son. My ex-husband and I barely communicate because he was very hurtful and controlling. He was supposed to pay some form of child support, but has never given me a dime. He refuses because of my income, and he hides his money in his business.

I have come to accept his selfishness, but a month ago he "borrowed" $130 from my son's piggy bank—hard-earned money his relatives gave him for doing chores, getting good grades and birthday gifts. My son has asked his father to return the money, but it has been more than a month and his dad keeps making excuses.

My son is devastated that his dad took his money. It didn't surprise me because my ex always felt entitled to other people's things. What advice can I give my son on how to get his money back, or is it gone forever?

PIGGY BANK ROBBERY

DEAR ROBBERY: That your ex would steal money from his son and stonewall about returning it is shameful. Tell your son you are sorry his father let him down, and that the money likely won't be returned.

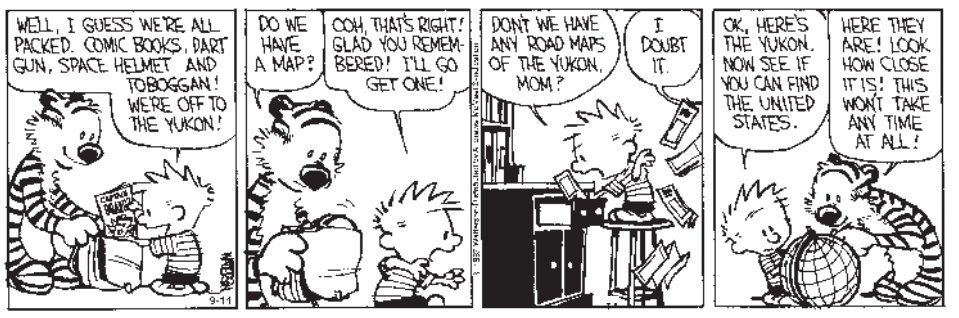
Then advise him that because the piggy bank wasn't secure, it's time the two of you opened a bank account for him and that the signatories will be you and him. This will prevent a repeat of what happened. If it's an interest-bearing account, it will earn money while it's there instead of sitting idle with "Miss Piggy."

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


WELL, I GUESS WE'RE ALL PACKED. COMIC BOOKS, DART GUN, SPACE HELMET AND TOBOGGAN! WE'RE OFF TO THE YUKON!
DO WE HAVE A MAP?
OOH, THAT'S RIGHT! GLAD YOU REMEMBERED! I'LL GO GET ONE!
DON'T WE HAVE ANY ROAD MAPS OF THE YUKON, MOM?
I DOUBT IT.
OK, HERE'S THE YUKON. NOW SEE IF YOU CAN FIND THE UNITED STATES.
HERE THEY ARE! LOOK HOW CLOSE IT IS! THIS WON'T TAKE ANY TIME AT ALL!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

A FISH WALKS INTO A DINER AND THE WAITRESS SAYS, "WHAT WILL YOU HAVE?"
AND THE FISH SAYS, "WATER!"
OH, HOW SAD! GO AWAY!
HELLO? EDDIE?... A FISH WALKS INTO A DINER...
JIM DAVIS 9-14

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

LETS WORK ON MY MAIN CHARACTER. IGGY WIGGY.
OKAY.
IGGY'S A BRAVE WARRIOR WHO GETS HIS POWER BY DRINKING THE DARK BROWN "POTION OF THE GODS."
TOO OBVIOUS?
DOES HE GET ALL JITTERY AND HAVE "POTION OF THE GODS BREATH" ALL DAY?

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

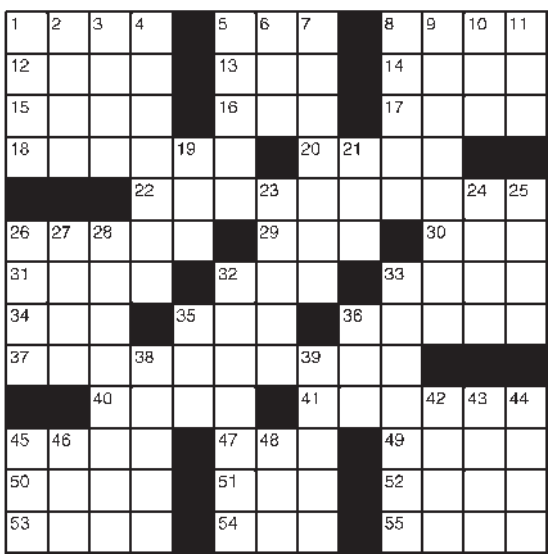
By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Huff and puff
5 "Wham!"
8 Tobacco plug
12 Hobbling
13 Coach Parseghian
14 Stratagem
15 Funny Fey
16 Sun. talk
17 Send forth
18 Long-legged wading birds
20 Golf hazard
22 Novel by John Grisham
26 Overly romantic
29 Scepter
30 "Entourage" role
31 — -bitty
32 Jo's sister
33 Battery fluid
34 Sailor
35 "— the season ..."
36 "Holy cow!"
37 Novel by John Grisham
40 — mater
41 "Finally!"
45 Papa's mate
47 Massachusetts cape
49 Notion
50 The yoke's on them
51 Luau souvenir
52 Boy, in Barcelona
53 Belgrade resident
54 Epoch
55 Goals

DOWN
1 Diner orders
2 Cannes milk
3 Hotel chain
4 Really rich
5 Old hat
6 Tramcar contents
7 Tusked African beast
8 Coffee add-in
9 Type of whale
10 "— was saying ..."
11 Drench
19 Your
21 "Awesome, dude!"
23 Top of a wave
24 Canal of song
25 Disencumbers
26 Catcher's aid
27 Beehive State
28 Decorative ribbon
32 Wondrous event
33 Delta, for one
35 Highland hat
36 Still
38 Backup strategy
39 Gymnast Comaneci
42 Tennis score
43 Transmit
44 New Mexico resort
45 Yr. parts
46 Chopping tool
48 Not 'neath

Solution time: 24 mins.

Yesterday's answer 9-14



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kimberly Williams-Paisley, 46; Robert Herjavec, 55; Melissa Leo, 57; Sam Neill, 70.

Happy Birthday: Keeping secrets will be in your best interest this year. Work diligently to prepare each move or change you want to make strategically. Having solid plans in place and putting in the physical work required to ensure you are successful will also help you avoid making impulsive decisions or giving in to temptation and poor habits. Your numbers are 7, 10, 21, 27, 36, 42, 48.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Troubles at home will mount if you overreact or show inconsistency. Look inward and focus on being the best you can be instead of looking for fault in others. Excessive behavior should be cut short. Protect what you have and love. ✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Size up whatever situation you face before you take action. You'll be prone to overreact or be faced with someone who does. Back away from risky ventures or people who are inconsistent and show signs of instability. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Listen to what's being said, but don't feel the need to make a decision just because someone is pressuring you. Do your due diligence and check all your options before you make a change that could end up being costly. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Share your thoughts and clear up any problems that may surface due to your past actions. Refuse to make an impulsive decision or let anyone pressure you into something you don't fully understand. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Take care of personal business. Don't reveal information that infringes on your privacy. Update documents that need to be addressed before they lapse. Physical improvements will help alleviate insecurity. Do what makes you happy. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Plan your actions carefully. Detail and precision should dictate how you plan to get ahead. Diplomacy and charm will help you avoid being asked questions you don't want to answer. Show discipline when faced with tempting offers. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Be careful how you ask others to do things. Being insensitive will cause others to get the wrong idea or choose to back away from you. Give everyone a chance to voice an opinion. ✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Take the initiative to organize and plan your day. Use innovative ideas and utilize your strengths to ensure that you get the most out of whatever you pursue. Invest in your home and your professional status. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Negotiate on your own behalf. Your ability to size up situations and bring the best alternatives to everyone's attention will put you in a good position. Be truthful and you will accomplish what you set out to do. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Partnerships should be looked at seriously. Consider the best way to protect your assets and your reputation. A heart-to-heart talk with someone close to you will help clear up any misgivings you might have about moving forward with your plans. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Take the time to update documents that need to be renewed. Taking care of responsibilities at home and at work will help you ward off any problems with rules, regulations or the powers that be. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* It's a new day and a good time to revisit some of the issues you were faced with earlier in the week. Put pressure on someone you believe needs to step up and do his or her part. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are kind, unique and intuitive. You are smart and convincing.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

3		9		6				
			2		7			
1			8					
	1	8			4		7	
4				5				9
	2		7			5	4	
					8			7
				6		5		
				1		9		2

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/14

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

9	1	6	8	4	7	2	3	5
2	3	7	6	9	5	1	4	8
8	5	4	3	1	2	7	6	9
1	2	3	7	8	9	4	5	6
4	6	8	2	5	3	9	1	7
5	7	9	1	6	4	3	8	2
6	9	5	4	2	1	8	7	3
3	4	2	5	7	8	6	9	1
7	8	1	9	3	6	5	2	4

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

'DUNKIRK' (FILM) Solution: 10 letters

E	E	Y	R	R	A	B	E	L	G	I	U	M	V	K
S	T	M	X	E	L	A	P	N	E	I	M	A	D	R
N	A	R	H	A	R	R	Y	P	I	E	R	A	A	A
I	V	A	K	W	I	N	N	A	N	T	E	L	O	M
L	I	V	E	S	J	A	C	K	O	H	H	R	Y	C
L	R	R	O	L	E	R	U	L	E	E	P	Y	E	A
O	P	N	G	N	I	D	I	T	R	M	O	L	N	E
C	E	A	H	A	Ⓡ	P	I	O	T	M	T	A	R	S
R	A	I	A	L	Ⓐ	H	B	L	H	A	S	N	A	O
E	N	E	N	O	Ⓦ	A	N	O	I	A	I	C	C	L
I	E	G	N	N	T	O	M	M	Y	G	R	E	N	D
R	U	R	N	T	S	T	Y	L	E	S	H	D	N	I
R	R	O	L	B	O	N	N	A	R	D	C	T	Y	E
A	I	E	I	R	A	T	E	C	N	A	R	F	L	R
F	N	G	E	R	M	A	N	E	D	W	O	L	G	S

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Air, Alex, Aneurin, Army, Barnard, Barry, Battle, Belgium, Bonnard, Christopher, Collins, Damien, Emma, Farrier, Fionn, France, George, German, Gibson, Glynn-Carney, Hardy, Harry, Hero, Irate, Jack, Keoghan, Light, Lives, Lowden, Mark, Mole, Nolan, Pier, Pilot, Prisoner, Private, Role, Rylance, Sea, Soldiers, Styles, Tommy, War, Whitehead, Winnant

Yesterday's Answer: Cafetiere

To purchase the WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #1 or #2, order online at: www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 100 puzzles.)

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Indians tie AL record with 20th straight win

CLEVELAND (AP)—The Cleveland Indians share a record with a team celebrated by Hollywood.

"Moneyball" has its sequel.

Following a familiar script of scoring first, playing strong defense and riding dominant pitching, the Indians extended their winning streak to 20 games and matched the AL mark held by the 2002 Oakland Athletics, beating the Detroit Tigers 2-0 on Tuesday night.

Cleveland's streak, which began on Aug. 24 in Boston, is tied for the majors' second-longest in 82 years—and the Indians show no signs of stopping.

Corey Kluber (16-4) strengthened his Cy Young Award case with a five-hitter as Cleveland joined the 2002 A's, 1935 Chicago Cubs (21) and 1916 New York Giants (26) as the only teams since 1900 to win at least 20 in a row.

Francisco Lindor homered leading off the first inning against Matthew Boyd (5-10), and Kluber sealed win No. 20—and Cleveland's seventh shutout during the streak—by getting Miguel Cabrera on an easy grounder to third.

AP

Cleveland Indians fans celebrate a 2-0 victory over the Detroit Tigers in a baseball game, Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2017, in Cleveland. The Indians won their 20th game in a row, tying the American League record.

Dodgers 5, Giants 3

In San Francisco, Clayton Kershaw pitched NL-leading Los Angeles to its first win in nearly two weeks, helping the Dodgers snap the club's worst skid since moving West at 11 games.

Kershaw (17-3) took a share of the major league wins lead with Milwaukee's Zach Davies.

Kenley Jansen recorded the final four outs for his 37th save but surrendered three straight singles with one out in the ninth to face a bases-loaded jam. He struck out Buster Posey and Nick Hundley to end it. Catcher Yasmani Grandal pumped his right fist and Jansen pounded his chest as the Dodgers hustled out of their dugout.

Brewers 5, Pirates 2

In Milwaukee, Eric Thames hit his 29th home run, Domingo Santana went 3 for 4 with two RBI and Milwaukee beat Pittsburgh.

The Brewers pulled within two games of the NL Central-leading Chicago Cubs who were playing the New York Mets.

Gerrit Cole (11-10) took his first loss in 10 road starts since the Atlanta Braves beat him 5-2 on May 22. He slipped to 8-1 away from PNC Park over that stretch after allowing five runs and seven hits in six innings. He tied his season-high with 10 strikeouts in his fifth start against Milwaukee this season.

Red Sox 11, Athletics 1

In Boston, Mookie Betts hit two home runs and a two-run triple, and Boston rolled past Oakland.

The Red Sox, winners of five of their last six, pushed their American League East lead back to four games over the Yankees following New York's loss to 2-1 loss to Tampa Bay.

Betts went 3 for 5 with six RBI. He's driven in three runs or more in a team-high 11 games.

The loss snaps a five-game win streak for the A's. They managed just one run and one hit off Eduardo Rodriguez (5-5), who struck out nine over six innings.

Braves 8, Nationals 0

In Washington, Freddie Freeman hit a three-run home run off Gio Gonzalez and Julio Teheran threw seven shutout innings as Atlanta cruised past Washington.

Gonzalez (14-7) allowed five earned runs and seven hits in five innings and struck out eight. The left-hander did guarantee his $12 million option for next season with his first out of the game as he reached 180 innings this season.

Blue Jays 3, Orioles 2

In Toronto, Richard Urena singled home the winning run in the ninth inning and Toronto handed slumping Baltimore its sixth straight loss.

Facing Orioles closer Zach Britton (2-1), who had recorded the final out of the eighth, Kevin Pillar drew a leadoff walk in the ninth and went to third on Teoscar Hernandez's single. One out later, Pillar scored when Luke Maile singled off the glove of third baseman Manny Machado.

Urena followed with a single to center. Darwin Barney raced around from second and slid home safely ahead of the throw from Adam Jones.

Rays 2, Yankees 1

In New York, Adeiny Hechavarria hit a tiebreaking home run in the eighth inning off Sonny Gray and Tampa Bay, playing as the home team in a series relocated to Citi Field because of Hurricane Irma, beat the Yankees.

Tampa Bay has split the first two games of the set held at the home of the New York Mets.

The Rays will fly back to Florida immediately after Wednesday afternoon's game for firsthand looks at the storm damage. No word yet from MLB if Boston and Tampa Bay will play at Tropicana Field on Friday night as scheduled—the Rays expect to host the three-game set, but it could be reconfigured to give them an extra day off to handle personal matters.

Royals 4, White Sox 3

In Kansas City, Brandon Moss hit a grand slam in the first inning for his third consecutive game with a homer, powering Kansas City past Chicago.

Scott Alexander worked out of a ninth-inning jam for his fourth save in six chances. He yielded a double to Adam Engel and a single to Yolmer Sanchez to lead off the ninth. He struck out Yoan Moncada, retired Jose Abreu on a pop to Whit Merrifield and got pinch hitter Matt Davidson on a grounder to end the game.

Astros 1, Angels 0

In Anaheim, Justin Verlander pitched eight innings of one-hit ball in a stellar second start for Houston, and the Astros snapped their four-game skid.

Yuli Gurriel's second-inning single drove in the only run for the Astros (87-57), who lowered their magic number for clinching the AL West title to five by blanking the second-place Angels (73-71).

Verlander (12-8) struck out nine and walked one in another overpowering performance for his new team.

Phillies 9, Marlins 8, 15 innings

In Philadelphia, Nick Williams hit a walk-off, two-out double in the bottom of the 15th inning, scoring Aaron Altherr as Philadelphia rallied for the win.

Innings-wise, it was the longest game of the season for the Phillies and second-longest for the Marlins.

Williams had three hits and reached base five times in the marathon game. He has 47 RBI since being called up the week before the All-Star break.

The Phillies celebrated with Williams, but thought they actually had a walk-off win in the bottom of the ninth on an RBI single by pinch-hitter Hyun-Soo Kim, but while the Phillies mobbed Kim at first base, ripping off his jersey and dousing him with water, Gatorade and sunflower seeds, the Marlins challenged the play at the plate.

Twins 16, Padres 0

In Minneapolis, Jason Castro homered twice and Brian Dozier was a double from the cycle as Minnesota routed San Diego.

The Twins hit a season-high seven home runs, setting a Target Field record for most homers in a game, to back another strong start from Kyle Gibson. According to the Elias Sports Bureau, the Twins set a major league record by homering in each of the first seven innings with Jorge Polanco, Eddie Rosario, Eduardo Escobar and Kennys Vargas adding to the total.

Gibson (10-10) pitched six innings with four hits and six strikeouts. He has allowed two runs or fewer in five straight starts for Minnesota, which maintained its hold on the second wild card spot in the American League.

Mariners 10, Rangers 3

In Arlington, Ben Gamel and Kyle Seager both hit three-run homers to lead Seattle past Texas in a matchup of wild card hopefuls.

Texas (72-72) and Seattle (72-73) have split the first two games of their four-game series. The Rangers dropped three games behind Minnesota for the American League's second wild card, while the Mariners remained 3 1/2 back after the Twins also won.

Seager's homer in the third made it 7-1 and chased Miguel Gonzalez (7-11), who made his second start overall and first at home for the Rangers since they acquired him in an Aug. 31 trade with the Chicago White Sox. Gonzalez allowed seven runs and seven hits while recording only seven outs.

Marco Gonzales (1-1), traded from St. Louis to Seattle on July 21, got his first victory in six starts for the Mariners. The lefty struck out six while allowing three runs over five innings, his longest outing this season.

Cardinals 13, Reds 4

In St. Louis, Paul DeJong homered, Yadier Molina drove in three runs and streaking St. Louis outslugged Cincinnati.

The Cardinals have won four straight and six of their last seven to stay two games behind the first-place Chicago Cubs in the NL Central.

Molina's two-out, two-run double in the bottom of the first gave the Cardinals a 2-1 lead. He drove in his 10th run over his past three games with a single in the sixth. Molina leads the team with 75 RBI.

Matt Carpenter walked a career-best four times, doubled in a run and scored twice.

Lance Lynn (11-7) allowed four runs, three earned, on six hits in five innings.

Robert Stephenson (4-5) was pulled after three innings, the shortest career outing for the Reds rookie. He allowed six runs, four earned, and all three of his walks scored.

Cubs 8, Mets 3

In Chicago, Kris Bryant hit a three-run homer, Jose Quintana pitched seven effective innings and Chicago got a sorely needed victory.

Quintana (10-11) also helped himself at the plate with a pair of sacrifices, including a perfectly placed safety squeeze that drove in Kyle Schwarber in the fourth. Quintana got another bunt down in the sixth, sending Javier Baez to third ahead of Ben Zobrist's RBI single.

Chicago had lost three in a row and six of eight, making for a crowded race at the top of the NL Central. St. Louis and Milwaukee also won Tuesday night, so the Cubs remained two games ahead of the Cardinals and 2 1/2 games better than the third-place Brewers.

Rockies 4, Diamondbacks 2

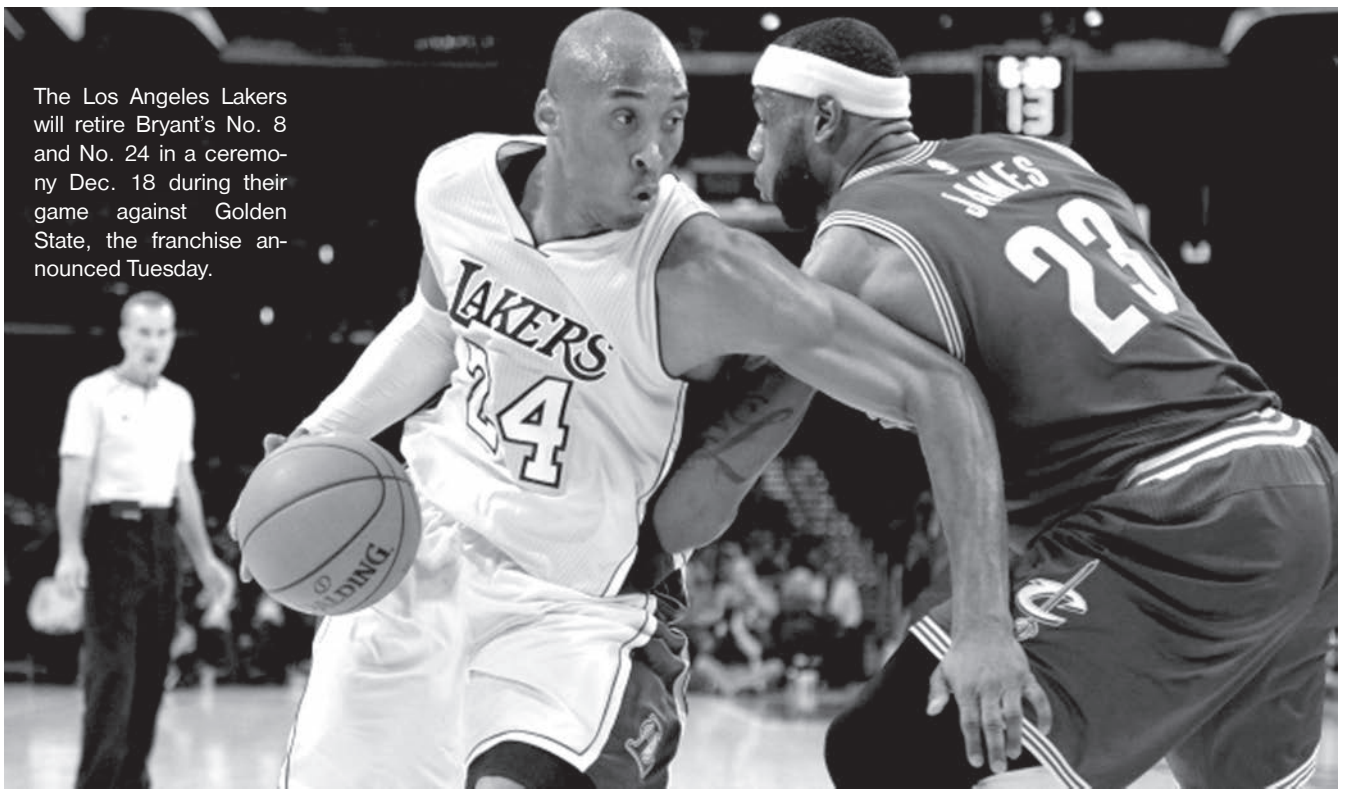
In Phoenix, Carlos Gonzalez, heating up for the stretch run after a subpar season at the plate, homered twice and Colorado won its sixth in a row.

Gonzalez drove in all four Colorado runs in his first multihomer game since Aug. 16 last year and is batting .451 (14 for 31) in September.

Jon Gray (8-4) gave up two runs and scattered seven hits over seven solid innings, striking out 10 with no walks and a hit batter for the Rockies, who won their eighth straight road game to pull within three games of Arizona for the first NL wild card.

Gray matched the season high for strikeouts he set in a win at Arizona on June 30. Chris Rusin got two outs for his second save.

Lakers to retire Kobe's 2 jersey numbers in December


The Los Angeles Lakers will retire Bryant's No. 8 and No. 24 in a ceremony Dec. 18 during their game against Golden State, the franchise announced Tuesday.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—One retired jersey number just isn't enough for Kobe Bryant and the Los Angeles Lakers.

The Lakers will retire Bryant's No. 8 and No. 24 in a ceremony Dec. 18 during their game against Golden State, the franchise announced Tuesday.

Bryant wore No. 8 from 1996 to 2006, when he switched to No. 24 for the remainder of a 20-year career spent entirely with the Lakers. He will be the 10th player honored by the Lakers with a retired number hung high on the Staples Center wall, but the first in NBA history to have two numbers retired by the same team.

"Kobe's jerseys are taking their rightful home next to the greatest Lakers of all time," Lakers owner Jeanie Buss said. "There was never any doubt this day would come. The only question was when. Once again, Lakers fans will celebrate our hero, and once again, our foes will envy the legendary Kobe Bryant."

The five-time NBA champion and 18-time All-Star selection is the Lakers' franchise leader in points (33,643), games played (1,346), 3-pointers (1,827), steals (1,944) and free throws (8,378), among countless superlatives.

Bryant is the third-leading scorer in NBA history after becoming the first player to spend at least 20 seasons with one franchise. He retired in 2016 with a bravura 60-point performance in his farewell game against Utah.

"As a kid growing up in Italy, I always dreamed of my jersey hanging in the Lakers rafters, but I certainly never imagined two of them," Bryant said in a statement. "The Lakers have bestowed a huge honor on me, and I'm grateful for the fans' enthusiasm around this game."

Bryant scored almost exactly as many points in his No. 8 jersey (16,777) as he did while wearing No. 24 (16,866). He returned to his high school jersey numbers midway through his career in an attempt at a fresh start following allegations of sexual assault leveled against him three years earlier, causing him to lose numerous sponsorship deals even after the case was dropped by Colorado authorities.

The 16-time NBA champion Lakers have only retired the numbers of Hall of Fame players: Wilt Chamberlain (13), Elgin Baylor (22), Gail Goodrich (25), Magic Johnson (32), Kareem Abdul-Jabbar (33), Shaquille O'Neal (34), James Worthy (42), Jerry West (44) and Jamaal Wilkes (52). O'Neal's jersey was the most recent to be hung on the wall in 2013.

Bryant is eligible to enter the Hall of Fame in 2021, but the Lakers decided not to wait for that formality to enshrine Kobe in their own exclusive club.

"This honor is very well deserved," said Johnson, now the Lakers' president of basketball operations. "Kobe was one of the greatest Lakers and NBA players of all-time, and he's definitely on my Mount Rushmore."

Bryant teamed with O'Neal to win three consecutive NBA titles from 2000-02, and he worked with Pau Gasol to win two more in 2009 and 2010. The Lakers struggled late in his career while Bryant ended three consecutive seasons early with injuries, and the franchise delayed its rebuilding in favor of showcasing Bryant to his adoring worldwide fans.

Bryant largely stayed away from basketball during retirement over the past year, but his influence remains outsized on the Lakers. Rob Pelinka, Bryant's longtime agent, became the Lakers' general manager in February when Buss put Johnson in charge of the front office.

"Kobe carried the torch for the Lakers for 20 seasons, keeping the franchise at the forefront of the NBA following the `Showtime' Era," Pelinka said. "Beyond the championship banners and individual accolades, Kobe's `Mamba Mentality' is something the Lakers will always try to emulate. It alone daily inspires all of us to strive for greatness."

Lewis, Urlacher, and Moss lead 11 first-year HOF nominees

CANTON, Ohio (AP)—Star linebackers Ray Lewis and Brian Urlacher and game-breaking wide receiver Randy Moss are among 11 first-year eligible players for the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Also part of the 108 early nominees who are eligible for the first time, having been retired for five years when the class is chosen next February, are cornerback Ronde Barber, wideouts Donald Driver and Steve Smith (former Giant, Eagle and Ram), offensive linemen Steve Hutchinson, Matt Birk, and Jeff Saturday, and defensive linemen Richard Seymour and Kyle Vanden Bosch.

The roster of nominees consists of 53 offensive players, 38 defensive players, five special teams players and 12 coaches. Modern era nominees will be reduced to 25 semifinalists in November and, from there, to 15 finalists in January.

During Super Bowl week, 48 voters will discuss the finalists, plus senior nominees Robert Brazile and Jerry Kramer and contributors nominee Bobby Beathard. There is no set number for any class of enshrinees, though between four and eight new members will be selected.

Returning finalists from 2017 are receivers Isaac Bruce and Terrell Owens; center Kevin Mawae; tackles Tony Boselli and Joe Jacoby; guard Alan Faneca; safeties John Lynch and Brian Dawkins; cornerback Ty Law; and coach Don Coryell.

Enshrinement will be next August in Canton.

Packers take top spot in AP Pro32 poll after Patriots' loss

NEW YORK (AP)—After the opening week of the NFL season, it's so easy to overreact, given such a small sample.

That's not an issue for the Green Bay Packers. They started the season last week at No. 2 in the first AP Pro32 poll and opened with a 17-9 win over the Seattle Seahawks.

And after the defending champion New England Patriots were routed in their opener, the Packers took advantage.

Green Bay grabbed the top spot in the latest AP Pro32 poll , which was released on Tuesday, receiving seven of 12 first-place votes for 376 points in balloting by media members who regularly cover the NFL.

"The Packers take the top spot because in Week 1, they looked like they finally have the championship-level defense to match their QB," said Jenny Vrentas of The Monday Morning Quarterback. "A big test will be to see if they can keep it up this week against Atlanta."

In all, six teams received a first-place vote.

The Kansas City Chiefs earned one of those first-place votes to reach 367 points, jumping five places to No. 2 in the poll after opening the season with a 42-27 win against the Patriots.

"That's the best game of Alex Smith's career, as the veteran quarterback shuts down any thoughts of anointing rookie Patrick Mahomes as the Chiefs' starter," Newsday's Bob Glauber said. "Smith obliterated Bill Belichick's defense and made it clear Kansas City will be a major player in the AFC."

Coach Andy Reid and the Chiefs will host the Philadelphia Eagles on Sunday. Reid coached the Eagles for 14 seasons and reached the playoffs nine times.

The Dallas Cowboys also earned a first-place vote and finished with 331 points, moving up five places to No. 3 after a 19-3 win over the rival New York Giants.

The Patriots fell from No. 1 to No. 4 and will look to rebound in New Orleans on Sunday against Drew Brees and the Saints.

"The soft Saints face a hard truth—they are catching an enraged Tom Brady on the rebound," Ira Kaufman of SB Nation Radio said.

New England also received a first-place vote and trails Dallas by only two points.

The Atlanta Falcons stayed at No. 5 and will open their new $1.5 billion Mercedes-Benz Stadium when they host the Packers on Sunday night in a rematch of the NFC championship game.

The Oakland Raiders and Pittsburgh Steelers were tied at No. 6. Both received a first-place vote and have 327 points, trailing Atlanta by one.

Seattle, which lost to the Packers at Lambeau Field on Sunday, dropped five spots to No. 8.

The Minnesota Vikings moved up six spots to No. 9 after opening with a win against the Saints. Minnesota faces a test this week when it goes on the road to take on the Steelers.

The Carolina Panthers gained three spots to round out the top 10.

Meanwhile, the Eagles have signed kicker Jake Elliott off Cincinnati's practice squad and placed Caleb Sturgis on injured reserve.

Elliott was a fifth-round pick in April after graduating from Memphis as the school's all-time leading scorer with 445 points. He made 81 of 104 field goals. His 77.9 percent success rate is a school record. Longtime Patriots kicker Stephen Gostkowski also went to Memphis.

Sturgis injured his left hip on the opening kickoff in a 30-17 win at Washington on Sunday. He's eligible to return from IR on Nov. 19.

Sturgis has made 84.8 percent of his field goals (56 for 66) in 30 games with the Eagles.

In Michigan,the Detroit Lions have signed punter Jeff Locke after Kasey Redfern went down with a knee injury in the season opener.

The Lions announced Tuesday they were putting Redfern and offensive tackle Corey Robinson on injured reserve. Robinson has a foot injury.

Detroit also signed offensive tackle Emmett Cleary.

With punter Sam Martin on the non-football injury list, the Lions went with Redfern in their 35-23 win over Arizona last weekend, but he was injured in the first quarter and kicker Matt Prater had to take over punting duties.

Locke spent time with Indianapolis this preseason after four seasons with Minnesota.

In Phoenix, the Arizona Cardinals have placed All-Pro David Johnson on injured reserve and re-signed veteran running back Chris Johnson.

The team also signed ex-Arizona State running back D.J. Foster, who grew up in nearby Scottsdale, off the New England practice squad.

The Cardinals had released Chris Johnson in their final roster cuts this year.

ESPN reported Tuesday that David Johnson would undergo surgery on his dislocated left wrist and would be sidelined two to three months.

Although the Cardinals didn't say anything about the surgery, placing him on injured reserve would seem to confirm the report. Under NFL rules, David Johnson would be eligible to come off IR in eight weeks, which coincides with the Cardinals' bye. But he could well be out another month after that.

Coach Bruce Arians said Monday that Johnson's injury was the same as that of Arizona rookie T.J. Logan. The timetable for Logan's return was eight to 12 weeks.

USOC tamped down discord to help LA get Games

LIMA, Peru (AP)—These were the jobs nobody wanted.

Sure, becoming leader of the U.S. Olympic Committee meant you immediately became the person pulling the strings behind the world's most successful Olympic team.

It also came with a massive task: Build a strong enough relationship with the rest of the world to bring the Olympics back to the United States after decades of mistrust and miscommunication.

It took eight years, a nice-sized dose of humble pie and more than a few setbacks, but Scott Blackmun and Larry Probst succeeded. The International Olympic Committee will award Los Angeles the 2028 Games at a ceremony on Wednesday. It will be the first Summer Olympics awarded to the U.S. in 27 years, when the IOC gave the 1996 Games to Atlanta. It will end a string of embarrassing losses: New York for 2012, and Chicago for 2016.

As much as the significant financial compromises the USOC made since Blackmun became CEO and Probst became chairman, Blackmun said the biggest game-changer was "the investment of time."

Knockout playoffs for Tuesday billiards

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Team SCS and Crazy 8 players pose for a group photo before the start of their games in the SBA-Budweiser Open 8-Ball Tuesday league last week.

The Saipan Billiards Association Budweiser Open 8-Ball Tuesday league enters the knockout phase with the 9 Eleven Docomo Hustlers, Tasha's Str8 Black Ball, 9 Eleven Titans, and Chow Time-Blue Hause Destroyers advancing in the playoffs.

The Hustlers topped the 20-week elimination round with a league best 156-104 win-loss record, followed closely by the Str8 Black Ball's 153-107 record. The Titans collected 141 wins out of 260 matches they played, while the Destroyers ended up with a 137-123 slate.

Tasha's Crazy 8 and the Chow Time Assassins were the other teams that competed and were eliminated. The Crazy 8 finished the division with a 103-157 mark, while the Assassins occupied the cellar (90-170).

The Hustlers were playing against the Destroyers with the Black Ball and the Titans forming the other half of the Final Four round played last Tuesday. Match results were unavailable as of press time. The winners will face off in next week's finals, Sept. 19, while the losers battle for third place.

Last week's results had the Hustlers completing a masterful 12-1 demolition of the Assassins, putting the former on top of the standings after allowing the Destroyers to occupy the leaderboard for a couple of weeks.

Erwin Gomez, Jerry Soriano, Robert Sanciangco, Joey Lucido, Rowel Mariano showed they remain as the team to beat as they were merciless in dispatching the Assassins, who scored their lone win courtesy of the pair of Chris Camacho and Julian Reyes.

The Black Ball and the Titans II pulled off similar 8-5 decisions against the Destroyers and Crazy 8 in the other final elimination round matches last week.

In the Thursday division, the 9 Eleven MJD Warriors won via walkover against the Chow Time-Blue Haus Homeboyz last week to push themselves atop the standings, entering the final day of the elimination round tomorrow night.

The Warriors' 13-0 win over the Homeboyz allowed them to hold a slim lead over the Chow Time 8-Black Ball. The Warriors now have a 163-97 slate against the 162-98 mark of the Black Ball heading to the final week of games.

The Str8 Black Ball defeated the Titans II, 9-4, Wild Bills downed the Jam Shooters, 8-5, and Team SCS nipped the Extreme, 7-6, in the other matches last week.

All eyes will be on the separate matches of the Warriors and the 8-Black Ball against the Titans II and the Jam Shooters, respectively, today as the number of wins will determine which team will occupy the top ranking in the knockout playoffs phase of the tournament.

Other final elimination round matches will have the Tasha's Wild Bills battling sister team Extremeand Sands Team SCS taking on the Homeboyz.

CLOSE

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last two came in the 49th and 61st. Markus broke the ice for Kanoa in the 17th minute.

In other results in the boys U14 division, Matansa and MP United shut down their respective foes.

Matansa walloped Paire FC, 4-0. Lolobeyong Benito had a pair of goals for Matansa, finding the back of the net first in the eighth minute and drilling his last in the 52nd. Alex Christian and Razeff Altamirano also made it to the board in Matansa's season debut after scoring in the 15th and 36th minute, respectively.

Duplicating Matansa's shutout win was MP United, which earned a 2-0 triumph over defending fall season champion Tan Holdings. Richard Steele gave MP United its first goal this season with his conversion in the 25th minute, while the club was credited an own goal in the second half.

Meanwhile, in the girls U15 division, Kanoa edged Southern United, 5-4.

Kanoa nailed all its goals in the first half to set the tone of the match and hung tough on defense in the final 35 minutes of play to keep the win. Paulyn Joyce posted two goals for Kanoa, scoring in the 21st and 33rd, while Sharmaine Francisco, Princess Alcantara, and Kristelle Itaas also scored against Southern United. Francisco put their team on the board in the 14th minute, while Alcantara found the back of the net three minutes later and Itaas closed out for Kanoa in the 34th.

Jerlyn Castillo had a hat-trick for Southern United, posting her goals in succession as she registered the first in the eighth minute and the last two in the 14th and 37th. Keisha Deleon Guerrero recorded the other goal for Southern United with her conversion in the 46th minute.

In other results in the division, Paire nipped Matansa, 2-1. River Kramer posted the winning goal in the 41st minute, while Erin Frink gave Paire its first goal in the 26th. Matansa scored first in the match, courtesy of Jannah Casarino's goal in the fifth minute.

With their close victories, Paire and Kanoa join defending champion Shirley's in the win column. Shirley's eased past TanHoldings, 9-0, in the division's opening game last weekend.

SAMOA

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Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi affixed their signatures on the GHA, while PGC was represented by its president Vidhya Lakhan. The GHA was signed last Sept. 11 at the Government Building Complex.

"It is an honor to be back in Apia to formalize the Games Host Agreement with the prime minister and SASNOC president. The PGC is very grateful that Samoa put itself forward to organize the 2019 Pacific Games at such short notice and that SASNOC has the full support of the prime minister and his government. The PGC will offer SASNOC all of the assistance and expertise to ensure they deliver another successful Pacific Games," Lakhan said in a statement posted at the PGC website.

Samoa stepped up to host next year's competition following Tonga's withdrawal early this year due to funding problem. Guam and Tahiti joined Samoa on the list of countries that submitted expression of interest to take over the hosting rights of the quadrennial event. Tahiti's proposal did not make the grade, while Guam's proposal lacked the government support (due to time constrain) that PCG needed to consider the island-nation, leaving Samoa the best choice to host the 2019 edition of the multi-sports competition.

Samoa is likely to keep the schedule of the Pacific Games as earlier proposed by Tonga. The Games are slated to be held from July 8 to 20 and will feature 26 sports. The host must have 14 compulsory sports and these include athletics, boxing, basketball, golf, swimming, table tennis, tennis, va'a (outrigger canoe racing), volleyball (indoor and beach), judo, taekwondo, weightlifting, football and rugby sevens (for men only). Samoa will then be given a hand to pick the remaining events.

Besides the schedule and sports to be contested, Samoa is expected to still implement the $35 per diem.

ALPHA

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tering 3 markers.

Bradley Lizama led all scorers in the first Final Four Pairing after firing 11 points, while Juanis King, Dustin Sablan, and Earl Borja logged 3 markers each for Typhoons.

In the second semis game, Alpha Males outclassed Brothers, 18-15.

Peter Cepeda was at the forefront of Alpha Males' offense in their finals win after recording 7 points. Borja added 6, while Joey Patrick San Nicolas made 5. Kim King paced Brothers with his 7 points, while Paka and Esteven Sablan posted 4 and 3, respectively, and Kioni Sablan registered a point.

The semis loss was the first for Brothers, which was slightly favored against Alpha Males after sweeping its first two games in the elimination.

Brothers debuted in the Tinian leg of the 3x3 tournament with a 21-9 crushing of Typhoons 2. Kioni Sablan broke into double figures in their opening game after knocking in 10, while Paka had 6, and Esteven and King made 3 and 2, respectively. Jared King had 4 points to lead Typhoons 2.

Next up for the Brothers Busta and the former also prevailed, 21-15. Again, Kioni led Brothers in scoring with his 8 and was backed up by Paka and Kim King, who tallied 7 and 4, respectively. Anthony Borja had 6 points on a losing effort for Busta.

Busta's loss to Brothers came after the former edged Typhoons 2, 21-19. Julian Santos and Fritz San Nicolas made 6 points apiece in the close win, while Anthony Borja and Joseph Santos posted 5 and 4, respectively. Eron Borja scored 9 for the winless Typhoons 2.

In other preliminary results, Typhoons drew first blood in the competition after outclassing Alpha Males, 21-16. Earl Borja top-scored for Typhoons with is 6 points, while Cepeda and Joey Patrick San Nicolas earned 6 points each for Alpha Males.

Alpha Males then recovered quickly as it outlasted Team Big in the third game in Pool A, 11-10. Cepeda, San Nicolas, and Kwon had 3 points apiece in their first win, while Borja added a pair of baskets. Theilen Johanes led Team Big with his 6 points.

Team Big was winless in the competition, as it fell to the Typhoons, 14-21, in the penultimate match in the elimination round. Borja scored in twin digits for Typhoons with his 10 points, Lizama had 5, and King and Sablan contributed 3 apiece. John Sablan recorded 5 points for Team Big.

Meanwhile, Alpha Males will compete against the Ol'Aces, Almost, Paki 3, and Nik Nak in the men's open division final round of the 3x3 Hoopfest Marianas 2017. The five squads will be joined by the champion in the Rota tournament, which will be held on Sept. 22 and 23. The final leg is set for Sept. 30 and Oct. 1 with the winners in the men's and women's divisions getting a chance to represent the CNMI to the 2017 Pacific Mini Games in Vanuatu this December.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	82	62	.569	—
New York	78	66	.542	4
Tampa Bay	72	74	.493	11
Baltimore	71	74	.490	11½
Toronto	68	77	.469	14½

Central Division

Cleveland	89	56	.614	—
Minnesota	75	69	.521	13½
Kansas City	72	72	.500	16½
Detroit	60	84	.417	28½
Chicago	57	87	.396	31½

West Division

Houston	87	57	.604	—
Los Angeles	73	71	.507	14
Texas	72	72	.500	15
Seattle	72	73	.497	15½
Oakland	63	81	.438	24

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

x-Washington	88	56	.611	—
Miami	68	76	.472	20
Atlanta	65	78	.455	22½
New York	63	81	.438	25
Philadelphia	55	89	.382	33

Central Division

Chicago	78	66	.542	—
St. Louis	76	68	.528	2
Milwaukee	76	69	.524	2½
Pittsburgh	68	78	.466	11
Cincinnati	62	83	.428	16½

West Division

Los Angeles	93	52	.641	—
Arizona	83	62	.572	10
Colorado	80	65	.552	13
San Diego	65	80	.448	28
San Francisco	57	90	.388	37

x-clinched division

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

KONQER Saipan King of the Hill

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Participants help each other climb one of the walls at KONQER Saipan King of the Hill held last Saturday at the Gov. Eloy S. Inos Peace Park.

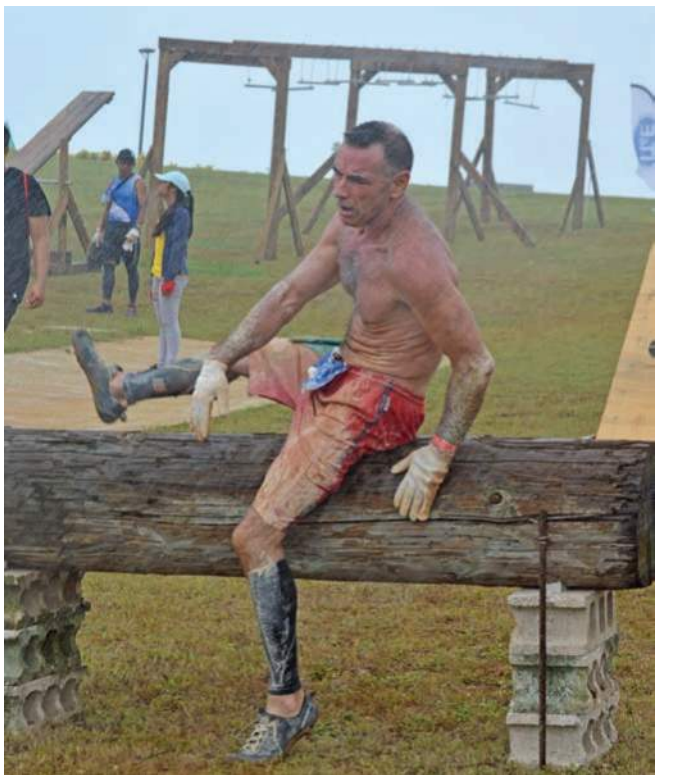
A female participant steps on a fellow competitor's back to reach the top of a wall.

A participant hops over a log, while two more slide down the ramp.

KONQER Saipan competitors go through the monkey bars.

A participant loses his balance after sliding through the ramp.

Saipan International School students cross the obstacle using the ropes.



Paul Plunkett goes over a log.

A competitor sits over the cross bar while thinking of his next move.

Indians tie AL record with 20th straight win

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Lakers to retire Kobe's 2 jersey numbers in December

PAGE 25

Alpha Males tops Tinian 3x3 caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Alpha Males worked its way back from an early loss and ruled the Tinian leg of the 3x3 Hoopfest Marianas 2017 after beating Busta in the finals, 16-11, last Sunday at the Tinian Gymnasium.

Alpha Males, which bowed to Typhoons in its opening game, 16-21, drew 5 points apiece from Joey Patrick San Nicolas and Antonio Borja to top Busta in the winner-take-all championship match and earn a trip to Saipan for the final leg of the 3x3 Hoopfest Marianas 2017. Peter Cepeda and Ki Kwon were the other members of the winning squad and they also hit the board in the finals with the latter adding 4 points and the former chipping in 2.

Anthony Borja paced the runner-up Busta with his 4 points, while Joseph Santos contributed 3, and Julian Santos and Fritz San Nicolas recorded 2 points apiece.

Before being held to a pair of baskets, Julian Santos earlier tallied 9 points to power Busta to a tough 21-20 victory against Typhoons in the first semis game. Anthony Borja matched Julian's output to move Busta within a win from securing a spot to the 3x3 Hoopfest Marianas 201. San Nicolas completed Busta's box scores in the semis match, regis-

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Alpha Males players pose with their medals and trophy and are joined in the photo by tournament organizers during the awards ceremony for the Tinian leg of the 3x3 Hoopfest Marianas 2017 last Sunday at the Tinian Gymnasium.

Close victories for Shirley's, Kanoa

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Shirley's Football Club and Kanoa Football Club survived their respective opponents in the opening week of the 2017 NMIFA Fall Youth League.

Shirley's banked on a solid first half to eke out a 5-4 victory over Kanoa FC in their boys U14 division game last Saturday at the Koblerville Elementary School Field. Rommel Mendoza knocked in a pair of goals in the first half to lift Shirley's to a 3-1 halftime advantage. Mendoza made his first goal in the 10th minute and the second in the 30th, while Danel nailed one in the 23rd to give Shirley's enough cushion. Mendoza added two more goals in the second half to foil Kanoa's comeback bid.

Kanoa, which got its lone goal in the first half from Markus Toves, threatened Shirley's behind the hat-trick of Markus' older brother Merrick. Merrick started his string of goals in the 43rd minute, while his

See CLOSE on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

TanHoldings and Shirley's players watch the action in the penalty area during the second half of their girls U15 division game in the 2017 NMIFA Fall Youth League last Saturday at the Francisco M. Sablan Middle School Field.

Samoa signs Pacific Games host agreement

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Samoa has completed its claim to the hosting rights of the 2019 Pacific Games after signing an agreement with the Pacific Games Council early this week in Apia.

Samoa Association of Sports and National Olympic Committee president Patrick Fepuleai and Samoa Prime Minister

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PACIFIC GAMES COUNCIL PHOTO

From left, Pacific Games Council Vidhya Lakhan, Samoa Prime Minister Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi, and Samoa Association of Sports and National Olympic Committee president Patrick Fepuleai pose for a photo after signing the Games Host Agreement in Apia last Monday.